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Free nicotine patches on the NHS

Crackdown on tobacco advertising

By IAN MURRAY AND MARK HENDERSON

TOBACCO advertising on billboards will be banned by next summer as part of a drive to help 1.5 million smokers to kick the habit.

An extra £30 million will be set aside for measures to try to stop children becoming smokers in the first place, and £60 million will be available to help addicts break the habit. Pregnant women will be specially targeted.

GPs will be able to refer patients who want to quit for special courses, counselling and even free nicotine patches; and there will be a clampdown on cigarette sales to under-age smokers.

The moves were unveiled yesterday in the tobacco White Paper presented to the Commons by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, yesterday. Government will also try to extend the advertising ban to newspapers and magazines as well as hoardings - which could cost the advertising industry £60 million a year and some 1,500 jobs.

The Government also aims to see an end to most tobacco sponsorship of the arts and sport by 2003 - although Formula One motor racing, as a global event, might qualify for an exemption to 2006.

The Health Secretary pointed to the "clever, eye-catching" advertising material used to lure youngsters into the habit and said: "All that will now change. Tobacco advertising is going to end and it's going to end soon." But he acknowl-



edged that the Government faced an uphill struggle because tobacco companies were committed to doing all they could to promote sales. "That's because they have to keep recruiting new smokers to make up for the 120,000 of their own loyal customers they kill off every year," he said.

To back the drive to stop children starting to smoke, a new criminal offence is to be introduced to penalise shopkeepers who persistently sell cigarettes to those under 16, and advertising in shops will be limited to the stands holding the packets. A new enforcement protocol to crack down on underage sales has been agreed with local authorities and trading standards officers will be under orders to take more effective action against shopkeepers who break the rules.

The tobacco industry is also to be encouraged to introduce a proof-of-age card, which could be used for other age-restricted purchases such as alcohol, fireworks and lottery cards.

The programme to help people to quit will enable GPs to refer smokers who want to give up for a course of specialist counselling, advice and support. Smokers will also be able to enrol for courses without being referred, and each local area can tailor support services to fit local needs.

Counsellors will be able to offer one week's supply of nicotine replacement therapy free to those least able to afford it. Nicotine patches cost around £15 for the first week of a ten-week course and the Health Department has calculated that this is £10 less than the amount someone smoking around 20 cigarettes a week will spend. Anyone serious about giving up should therefore be able to afford the patches and still save money.

The Government has, however, decided not to bring in a ban on smoking in pubs and restaurants for fear of appearing to run a nanny state. However, targets for smoke-free provision in public places are to be introduced and progress towards achieving them monitored - the inference being that if voluntary efforts were not forthcoming, they could be made compulsory.

Dr Stottford, page 6



Panto duty: the Queen meets cast members of *Aladdin* at the Hazrogate Theatre yesterday, but passed on no tips from her own career at Windsor

Queen treads panto boards again

By ALAN HAMILTON AND PAUL WILKINSON

FIFTY-FIVE years on, the jokes are as bad as ever. The puns in this year's production of *Aladdin* at the Hazrogate Theatre are every bit as excruciating as they were in the 1943 performance of the pantomime at Windsor Castle, where the presence of Royalty in the cast did nothing to raise the tone.

Meeting the cast at a rehearsal for this year's production in the North Yorkshire town, the Princess Boy from the 1943 staging agreed that things had not changed much

since she and her sister took starring roles in the Waterloo Chamber at Windsor. The Queen had either forgotten - or chosen not to remember - the script.

On a day visit which also included a tour of a toffee factory, she smiled wryly as she listened to humorous gems during the pantomime's final rehearsal, including the scene in which Aladdin is trapped by his cruel Uncle Abanazar in a cave of jewels for the rest of his life. "You'll get a lean and hungry look, and grow a beard like Robin Cook."

It gets worse. As the pantomime progresses through its one-

liners, the audience are invited to groan at: "How many ears has Captain Kirk of the Starship Enterprise? Three: the right ear, the left ear and the final front ear."

It was no better in 1943, with King George VI and Queen Elizabeth laughing loyally at their daughters' efforts. "There are three acres in one rood," declared Widow Twankey, played by a castle office boy. "We don't want anything improper," riposted Princess Roxana, played by Princess Margaret.

"There's a large copper in the kitchen," announced the Windsor Twankey. "We'll soon get rid of him," replied Princess Elizabeth, clad in utility shorts. The best bits, unsurprisingly, were the visuals, including the 17-year old future Queen performing a tap dance, and emerging from a laundry basket dressed as a charlady in a sackcloth apron.

The tradition of royal pantomimes was established early in the war to brighten the lives of the young Princesses. In a run that began with *The Sleeping Beauty* and ended in 1944 with a compilation entitled *Old Mother Red Riding Boots*, Princess Elizabeth, sometimes clad in tights and skirt (too short for her father's comfort), deployed the skills of singer, dancer, dramatic reciter and even ukulele player.

Audiences, drawn from the castle staff and their families, agreed that the Princess was talented, if rather stiff, and that the real actress was her younger sister. But after that 1943 performance the former royal nanny, Marion Crawford, wrote: "I have never known Lilibet (Princess Elizabeth) more animated. There was a sparkle about her none of us had ever seen before."

The undoubted reason was the presence in the front row of a young Royal Navy officer, a homeless Greek Prince on

shore leave, laughing uproariously at the appalling jokes. Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten had been invited to Windsor for Christmas.

The Queen mentioned none of that yesterday. But seeing *Aladdin* again clearly jogged her memory. "She said, how things hadn't changed much since her day," said Rob Swain, the theatre's artistic director. "She commented on how it was different, yet how the tradition remained the same. She was extremely inter-

ested in the technical side and she thought the Aladdin's Cave set was very beautiful."

Lesley Harcourt, 21, who leads the cast of the panto opening in Harrogate tonight said it was good to be following in royal footsteps. "I knew she had played *Aladdin* in 1943, but she did not mention it; there were no tips on how to play the role."

For the Queen, all that was a long time ago. Or, as the chorus from the stalls: "Behind you."

Pinochet appeals

General Pinochet is appealing against the Lords' ruling that he does not have sovereign immunity against extradition proceedings. The move is thought to centre on links between Lord Hoffmann, who had the casting vote, and Amnesty International...Page 2

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Blair heads for row over rebate

FROM ROLAND WATSON IN VIENNA

TONY BLAIR signalled for the first time last night that Britain's £2 billion-a-year budget rebate from Brussels would have to feature in negotiations about the funding of the European Union.

After weeks of insisting that the prized payback was off limits, the Prime Minister conceded that it might have to go on the table as part of the wider European budget reforms, including an overhaul of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). His comments came as he flew into a concerted drive by Britain's EU partners to force the 14-year-old rebate into the open.

Arriving in Vienna for the six-monthly EU summit, he was met by demands that he offer it up as part of the haggling over the re-shaping of EU finances. Germany and Austria led the way, with Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, insisting his coun-



A-lad-in disguise: Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret in 1943

Half-point rate cut cheers the high street

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, PHILIP WEBSTER AND SUSAN EMMETT

HOME-BUYERS, shopkeepers and exporters were cheered by a half-point interest rates cut yesterday. But unions and industry called for more, and the Bank of England hinted that rates would continue to fall sharply in the new year.

The third consecutive monthly cut took the cost of borrowing from 7.5 to 6.25 per cent - the lowest rate since the

Bank took control of interest rates in May last year - and was immediately followed by cuts in the cost of mortgages. A borrower with a £60,000 loan will save just over £20 a month.

Stephen Byers, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said the cut would be good news for businesses, for consumers and for home-owners, adding: "We believe the only reason why the Bank has been able to take that decision is because of the tough measures we've introduced ensuring that inflation is at a target of 2.5 per cent and cutting the

national deficit by £20 billion last year." He criticised "scaremongers" for "talking the economy down", but the Conservatives swiftly claimed the decision was further proof that Gordon Brown had been too optimistic in his economic forecasts, while union leaders said the cut was not big enough.

John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, welcomed an "early Christmas present" for industry and urged the Bank "to keep on cutting". But others were less charitable. Roger Lyons of the Manufacturing, Science and Fi-

nance union, who had called for a one-point cut, said the Bank had "spoilt" Christmas for families across the country, adding: "It will be a miserable New Year for manufacturing."

John Edmonds, General Secretary of the GMB, said it was a pathetic response to the problems faced by manufacturers. "The MPC [the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee] seem to be living in a parallel universe. They should come into the real world."

The Bank said that it had cut rates Continued on page 2, col 5

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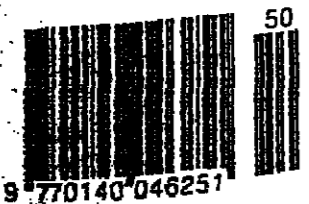
	CM	Int	Savings		CM	Int	Savings
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ITALY	8	36	78%	NETHERLANDS	7	29	76%
CHINA	27	109	75%	SPAIN	11	36	69%
SAUDI ARABIA	38	102	63%	USA	5	24	79%
ISRAEL	10	79	87%	CANADA	6	24	75%
GERMANY	6	29	79%	AUSTRALIA	7	49	86%
SOUTH AFRICA	28	80	65%	NEW ZEALAND	8	49	84%
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A spine-chilling moment in Robinson's bleak midwinter

It must be a scary feeling. The snipers circle. The glass shields protecting you slide noiselessly back. You look around for comfort — but your friends have slipped away.

In panic you stab at your mobile phone... no reply. Just a recorded message: "Alastair Campbell is busy right now; have a nice day."

Such was the lonely figure sitting on the Treasury Front Bench for Questions to the Chancellor of the Exchequer yesterday. Geoffrey Robinson is on the political equivalent

of Death Row. Nobody said so. As is the convention, nobody on your own side mentions it.

Nobody turns against you in public — they just stop supporting you. Privately the whispers grow: "Oh, done for, of course. Lost Number Ten's support. Tony won't carry him. Gordon has been forced to let him go."

The most chilling moment for the Paymaster General yesterday was not when, with a dismissive wave, the Tory Shadow Chancellor, Francis Maude, derided his "swan

song" at Treasury Questions. "When," asked Mr Maude, would the Government "abandon the search for a face-saving exit, and sack him?" But Maude has been predicting Robinson's demise for months.

Nor will Robinson have been much hurt by the ambush from Andrew Robathan (C. Blaby), a well-spoken thug from the Tory peanut gallery. Robathan put to the Paymaster's fellow minister, Stephen Byers, a complicated question about Stenbell Ltd, implying an unholy entanglement in

the late Robert Maxwell's business affairs. But the Tories do say this sort of thing, and Robinson is used to it.

No, sideswipes can bear, and Robinson did. The Paymaster General maintained the air of chubby geniality which (in this sketch's view) has rather likeably distinguished him this year. It was when Stephen Byers rose to support him that his heart must have sunk. The Tories had impugned the Paymaster's honour. Byers did not quite defend it.

The Chief Secretary was standing in for their boss, Gordon Brown, whose father has just died. Called upon to defend his fellow minister, he attacked the Tories instead. He

deplored their decision to make "a deliberate personal attack". Robinson was an "effective" minister, he said.

Some defenses! The Tories and the newspapers call you a tax-avoiding, high-living, corner-cutting, millionaire Maxwell-crony, and the best your mates can say in reply is that you're "effective".

But Byers had not finished. "And I look forward to working with him — for..." he continued. At last the vote of confidence! Look forward to working with him for what? Years to come? Future years?

For a long time yet? Many years to come? "..." for many months to come," said Byers. There was an intake of breath on both sides. We noted the remark as significant, but entered a reservation: ministers are not textbooks; sometimes the wrong words slip out in error. Maybe Byers hadn't meant it like that?

The Chief Secretary resumed his attack on the Tories. They would regret their remarks about his colleague, he said. "I look forward to working with him..."

Ah. He was about to correct that verbal slip... for many months to come.

So there we have it. The authorised version. Twice. Either Mr Robinson is gravely ill, or he's for the chop. The cautious, greying Chief Secretary is not one to ad lib. A man who, at different times and in response to different questions, said "steering a course of stability in an uncertain world" five times yesterday, knows something about staying on message. For Robinson, the message is bleak.



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Blair heads for row over rebate

Continued from page 1

is important again for Britain to realise that we have a strong position in respect of the rebate."

Last night Mr Blair insisted he was not paving the way for a climbdown over the issue. Before a dinner with leaders of sister centre-left parties, Mr Blair said the rebate was "not negotiable". He said in a BBC interview: "There are a whole stack of countries here with a bottom line they cannot go beneath. For Britain, our bottom line is the rebate and it is not up for negotiation."

But he added to confusion about the Government's position by conceding that Britain would have to "strongly argue" its corner to keep it.

Mr Blair's official spokesman insisted there was no inconsistency between the hard-line message delivered to a domestic audience and the more conciliatory tone adopted for a European audience.

It follows criticism from France last week that Mr Blair's approach would scupper any attempt at budgetary reform.

Mr Blair is keen not to be isolated at a summit which provides a key test for his authority in Europe on the eve of the single currency, which Britain is remaining outside. The determined mood among Britain's EU partners put Mr Blair on notice that he faces an uphill struggle if he wants to emerge from next year's special Brussels summit on future funding with the rebate intact.

Pinochet lawyers appeal to Lords

BY JOANNA BALE AND FRANCES GIBB

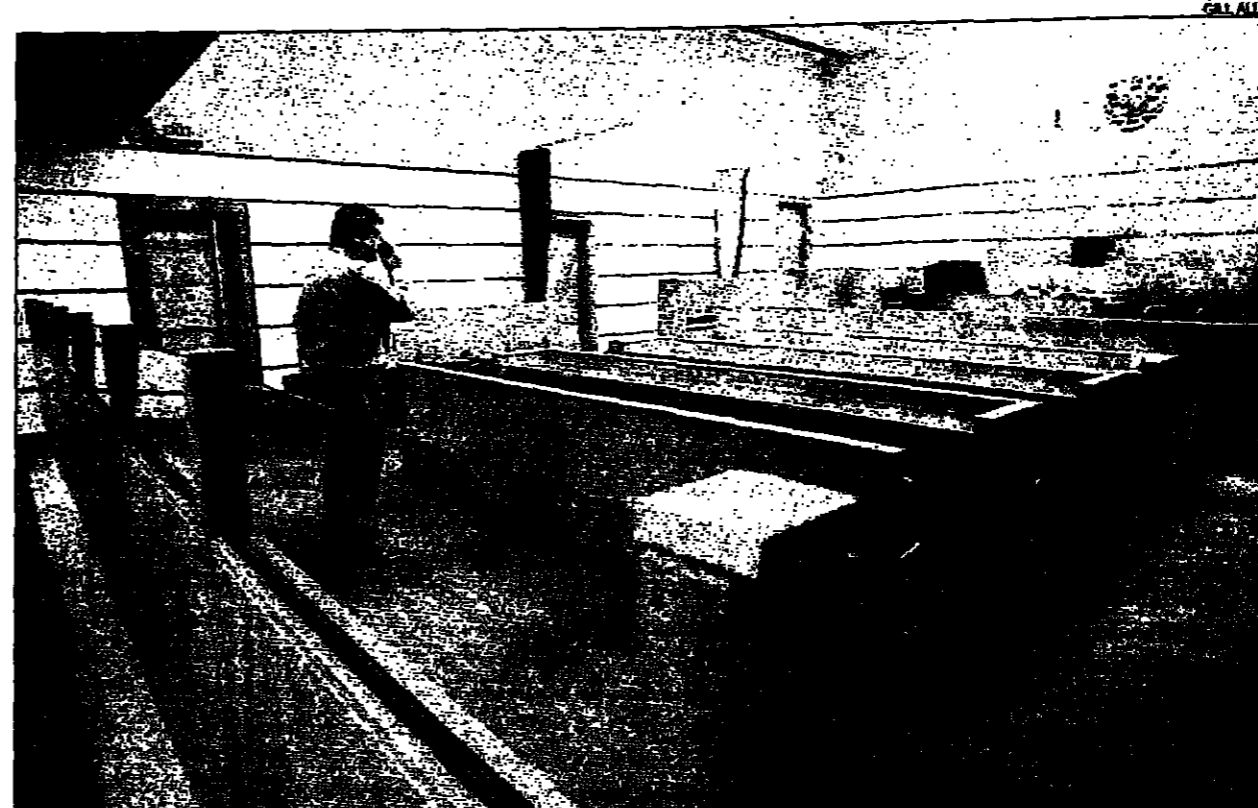
LAWYERS for General Augusto Pinochet launched an unprecedented appeal at the House of Lords yesterday in an attempt to overturn the law lords' ruling that the former Chilean dictator does not enjoy sovereign immunity from prosecution.

The move could jeopardise the general's first appearance before magistrates today, although the Lord Chancellor's Department said last night that it was expecting the hearing to go ahead.

The petition is understood to centre on concerns about links between Lord Hoffmann and Amnesty International. It was Lord Hoffmann's casting vote which sealed the law lords' 3-2 decision that the former dictator did not enjoy immunity from extradition proceedings.

Lawyers acting for the general have already raised concerns of potential bias with Jack Straw, pointing to the work of Lady Hoffmann as an administrative assistant at Amnesty International and Lord Hoffmann's role as a director of Amnesty International Charity for several years. However, in his ruling on Wednesday, Mr Straw dismissed representations on that issue and said he accepted the law lords' ruling.

Amnesty International said last night that the general's lawyers had become "desperate". A spokesman said that Lord and Lady Hoffmann's involvement with it was a matter of public record and had not extended to any part of the campaign against Pinochet. Furthermore, the organisation had also received support



A security supervisor stands in the area at Belmarsh Magistrates' Court where Pinochet may be sitting today

from Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice whose High Court ruling the law lords overturned.

The spokesman added that even General Pinochet's own lawyers, Kingsley Napley, who are lodging the appeal in the Lords, had supported the charity, donating £1,000 towards the building of a new head office.

Lord Hoffmann's failure to disclose his involvement in line with accepted, although unwritten, judicial practice has caused concern in legal circles. Lesser connections are usually declared at the beginning of a case and it is felt by some that Lord Hoffmann, although well able to avoid any bias when sitting as a judge, was foolish and wrong not to do so.

However, Mark Stephens, a solicitor with Stephens Innocent, said last night: "Kingsley Napley gave money in response to a letter signed by both Lord Hoffman and Lord Bingham, so they can hardly claim not to have known about Lord Hoffman's involvement with Amnesty. They are not challenging Lord Bingham's ruling which just goes to show how cynical all this is."

The judicial office at the House of Lords said last night that the procedure for handling the appeal was still being considered, although a hearing is expected on Tuesday. It is believed to be the first time a move has been made to set aside a law lords ruling and no automatic arrangements are in place, since the House of Lords is the highest court in the land. The only previous challenge recorded in legal history was in 1823 in a land case called *Stewart v. Agnew* where one of the parties challenged the law lords' decision simply on the basis that it was wrong. The challenge failed.

But even then, that was not an attempt to have a ruling set aside on the ground that it was invalid because one of the law lords had failed to declare an interest. In those days, too, the system was different: appeals were heard by the Lord Chan-

cellor sitting with a couple of colleagues. The present system, with five professional law lords chosen from the House of Lords' judicial committee, did not come into the Appeal Jurisdiction Act of 1876 allowed life peers to be appointed as law lords and stipulated that they would hear all appeals.

James Vallance White, senior clerk to the House of Lords' judicial office, said yesterday he had never known a challenge to a ruling by the law lords as presently constituted. "We are in completely uncharted waters."

Another challenge — this time over connections with a case — was also made to one of the law lords scheduled to sit in the *Lourdo* appeal over the House of Fraser takeover in 1989, but that was before any hearing had even taken place.

If it is the law lords themselves, albeit different ones, who will decide whether their own ruling should be set aside, the petition asks that

Help for aged heads new policy initiative

**BY VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEBALL EDITOR**

ERMS will be offered sweeteners to employ older people who have lost their jobs or taken early retirement, as part of a government drive to help the "active aged".

Tax breaks, lower rates of employers' national insurance contributions and a company exemption from strict rules on staff dismissal are among the new incentives being prepared. Companies may also be encouraged to keep older people on staff instead of forcing them out or making them redundant.

The scheme has been ordered by Tony Blair and he has asked for action plans before the summer. He wants to boost the standing of older people in society and has set up a new team of civil servants to carry out the work.

The task is one of five priorities for Mr Blair's new performance and innovation unit, headed by Treasury high-flyer Suma Chakrabarti. Work is to begin in January.

The unit is also to work on rural economies, the development of High Street one-stop shops to deliver public services, the encouragement of "electronic commerce" in which firms do business on line, and new systems of accountability in government.

The work on rural economies is expected to be the basis for next year's White Paper, and potentially, the creation of a ministry for rural affairs.

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Half-point cut brings cheer to high street

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because of a further slowdown in the global economy and the fact that recent surveys "have continued to indicate a deterioration across the economy".

Kate Barker, CBI chief economist, welcomed the cut but said it would not ward off an impending downturn.

Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, said the decision showed the Bank was "truly concerned about the state of the British economy. They have had to take drastic action because of Labour's policies. Britain is facing a downturn made in Downing Street." In the Commons he accused ministers of complacency.

Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, said the cut, while welcome, would not prevent the loss of hundreds of thousands more manufacturing jobs.

Retailers also questioned whether it was enough to encourage shoppers to go on a Christmas spending spree.

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SNP plans to scrap Scottish tuition fees

BY JASON ALLARDYCE, SCOTTISH POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Scottish Nationalists plan to scrap university tuition fees — prompting an invasion of students from England — if they win control of Scotland's first parliament.

The SNP will put the plans at the heart of its campaign. The *Times* has learnt. University education would be free again to students in Scotland, sparking a drift away from English, Welsh and Northern Irish institutions where students pay £1,000 a year tuition fees.

The SNP's policy could seriously damage efforts by Labour in Scotland to present itself as the party of education.

It is based on new government-commissioned research suggesting the cost of scrapping Scottish tuition fees imposed this year would be far less than previously envisaged.

The SNP leader, Alex Salmond, says the imposition of tuition fees by the Labour Government for new students is "a stain on Scottish education" which must be removed. If his party wins control of the devolved parliament he would move to eliminate the means-tested fees for all new students within a year of taking office.

The north-south divide would inevitably mean that other United Kingdom students, such as those at Oxford University who have been refusing to pay the fees imposed this year, would be drawn to studying in Scotland.

research commissioned by the Scottish Office suggests savings to the Government by paying Scottish student loans rather than paying fees direct to universities are "quite modest in early years".

The savings to the public purse by no longer meeting the cost of fees would be largely offset in the first three years by the cost of the Government paying out loans through the Student Loans Company. Repayments would only making a substantial positive difference in later years.

The analysis, by London Economics, an economic consultancy, shows a cost saving in Scotland of only £13 million a year for the first three years of fee-charging. That grows to £26 million by the year 2001-02 to £50 million a year by 2005-06 during the second term of the new parliament, and peaks at about £130 million a year by 2016. The SNP

will argue in the run-up to next May's elections that the early costs of scrapping fees could easily be met by identifying savings through reducing Scottish Office bureaucracy and scrapping quangos.

In the medium term, the SNP says voters wishing to continue with free university education would be presented with a choice of Scottish independence or using the devolved parliament's tax-varying power to meet the shortfall.

Even when the cost of scrapping fees is at a peak, this could be met by adding 1p to the basic rate of income tax, which would generate £160 million.

Mr Salmond said the report showed that the Government had "scaremongered" about the real cost of tuition fees when challenged earlier.

The latest SNP initiative is the brainchild of John Swinney, MP, the party's treasury spokesman and deputy leader. □ Church of Scotland leaders last night confirmed a decision by local church officials denying the Rev Beverly Gauld the opportunity to stand as an SNP candidate for the Scottish Parliament.

Davies robbery inquiry cost £24,400

BY DANIEL MCGRORY AND JAMES LANDALE

SCOTLAND YARD spent 656 police manhours at a cost of £24,400 investigating the robbery of Ron Davies, the former Secretary of State for Wales, the Home Office disclosed yesterday.

The Crown Prosecution Service decided that charges against a suspect should be dropped because Mr Davies would prove a poor witness in court. Last night MPs and council officials in south London, where Mr Davies was allegedly robbed, questioned why so much was spent for so little return.

The time spent by police at Brixton on the Davies affair was revealed yesterday by a Home Office Minister, Kate Hoey, in a written answer in the Commons. It does not include the work of the senior officers at the Yard, including the commissioner, Sir Paul Condon and his deputy, John Stevens, who were closely involved.

Senior Yard officers were required to liaise with Home Office ministers and Downing Street on what became a major embarrassment for the Government over its handling of the affair in October.

Crispin Blunt, the Tory MP who asked the question about police hours, said the "impressive" figures raised fresh questions about why the CPS had failed to prosecute the case. "Given that an enormous amount of time was spent on an investigation which appeared to be straightforward, given that a suspect was arrested, given that the police put in an enormous amount of effort, why was there no prosecution?" the Regent MP said.

The total bill for this investigation must be, I would guess, in excess of £50,000," he said. "So why was a prosecution not brought?"

Police said they had closed the Davies inquiry. "Unless someone brings us new evidence there will be no further proceedings taken against anybody and that includes Mr Davies," a spokesman said. Five other people were arrested during what police admit was "a major enquiry", but all of them were released without charge.

Senior officers fear that local council officials in south London will now demand an explanation why so much time was spent on the Davies affair when they complain resources to fight crime are being cut.

The Metropolitan Police last night defended the cost of its investigation, saying: "We have a duty to investigate every crime that is reported. We cannot look at somebody coming into the station and think 'We won't bother with you'."

Priest tells of love he lost in hotel room

By SUSIE STEINER

A SENIOR Roman Catholic priest yesterday told of his night of anguish in a hotel room when he gave up the woman he loved, so that he could remain true to his vows of celibacy.

Father Noel Barry, a parish priest and press secretary to the head of Scotland's Catholic Church, fell passionately in love with a former nun more than ten years ago. He told a court that he was "still in love" but that in the traumatic night at the hotel the relationship disintegrated because of the choice he was forced to make.

"It is a night which is etched in my memory as one of the most devastating nights of my life because I could not do what she had hoped I would do," he told Edinburgh's Court of Session. Father Barry, 42, spokesman for Cardinal Thomas Winning, is suing *The Scottish Sun* over a report two years ago about his alleged relationship with a head teacher, Annie Clinton.

Yesterday the hearing examined Father Barry's relationship with another woman, Caroline Keegans, which culminated in a hotel room in 1985. The priest of St Joseph's, Milngavie, denied ever having

To fall in love is not a sin, but I could not break my celibacy although it was very tempting

sex with Ms Keegans. "During 1984, I fell in love with her," he said. "It was a period of turmoil in my life."

"It is not a period of which I am ashamed. To fall in love is not a crime but as a result of falling in love I have had to confront a serious decision in my life as to whether I could or should continue as a celibate priest."

"I took the decision to continue as a celibate priest. I am as open to feelings and emotions as anyone else in this room but I have lived celibacy faithfully."

"When it became clear that I could not break my promise of celibacy, even though it was very tempting - there were times I greatly wanted to - I had to stop all contact with this woman."

The court was told how the couple met in 1984 when Fa-

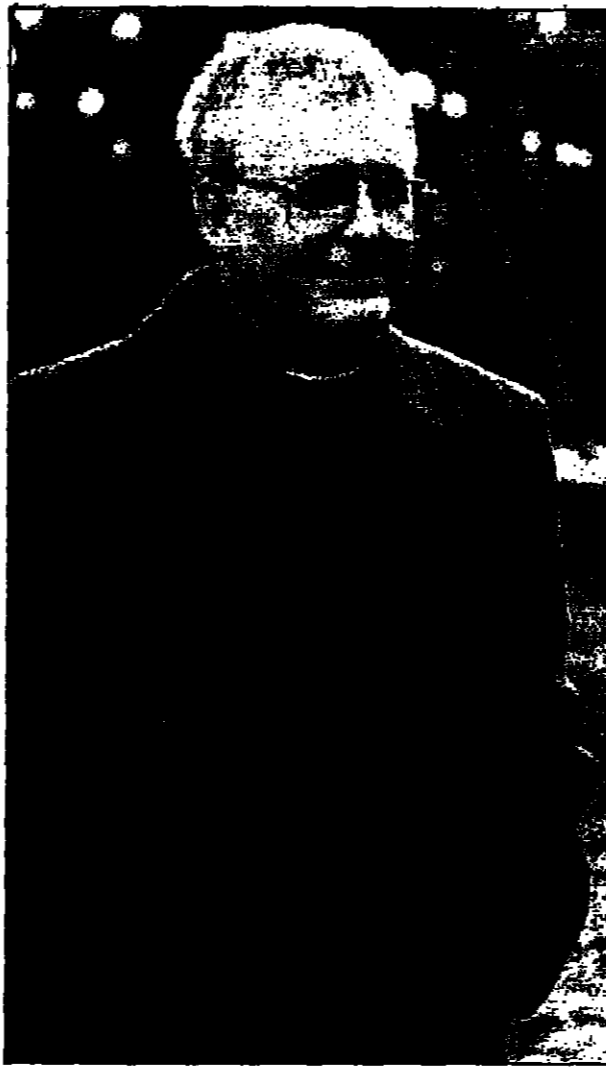
ther Barry was 28 and Ms Keegans was in her mid-20s. She had been a sister with a Franciscan Roman Catholic order but had left two years earlier. The two spoke after one of Father Barry's mass celebrations and the relationship developed. For Father Barry, it was his first though Ms Keegans had previously had a relationship with another man.

Father Barry told the court that he had not seen Ms Keegans for seven years but described himself as "still in love".

The night the couple spent at the Crest Hotel in Preston was one of turmoil and decision, he said. "We had sat up talking, we were talking about our feelings for each other, about whatever normal people talk about when they are in love. The night went on, dawn was beginning to rise."

"It may have been her or me who said, 'Let's go and see the dawn rising.' That was the romantic element."

But his inability to do "what she had hoped" led to a breakup. "It provoked great anger, great hurt. I am sorry that the hurt and anger gripped her so much. But I could not outside marriage indulge in sexual intercourse." In a letter to her af-



Father Noel Barry and Annie Clinton: they are suing for defamation over allegations about their relationship

ter that night, Father Barry said: "I want to thank you for giving me so much. I can't begin to tell you how much it meant to me."

He told the court: "I felt very deeply in love with her. Even at that point I still wanted to reach a situation where we were able to continue with the friendship, but within the parameters which I thought had

to be the parameters. I loved, and I still love, and I am not ashamed of that. To love is not a sin."

But the relationship had been damaged, he said: "Ultimately it came to a very acrimonious point. She started accusing me of not being fair to her, trying to control her emotions. In so many respects, that was a valid interpretation."

Father Barry told the court that he felt he had made the right decision: "If I had left the priesthood and abandoned my vow of celibacy, she would not have been a happy woman, no more than I would have been a happy man."

The *Scottish Sun* claims that its article, published in the wake of the Bishop Roddy Wright scandal of 1996, was

"true or substantially true" in claiming that the priest and Miss Clinton had a "close six-year relationship". Father Barry and Miss Clinton are each suing News Group newspapers, claiming £200,000 in damages for defamation. The priest claims that the article implied the pair were having a long-standing sexual relationship. The case continues.

Girl faces questions over death of child

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A GIRL aged 12 has been questioned by police over the death of a 16-month-old toddler she was babysitting.

Greater Manchester Police confirmed that the girl was arrested on Saturday, the day after the child, Molly Adams, suffered a skull fracture. The girl was looking after Molly in the home of the child's mother, Annette Adams, in Crumpsall, Manchester, on Friday when she raised the alarm with an aunt who lives near by.

The aunt found the child suffering from a nosebleed and apparently collapsed in her cot. After she could not be revived, she was taken to Booth Hall Children's Hospital.

Police began an inquiry when it was revealed that the child had a skull fracture and brain injury. She died on Monday. It is understood that the girl, who denies inflicting any injury, has been released on police bail.

The NSPCC recommends that children should not be left with anyone under the age of 16. Hilary Cross, a spokeswoman for the charity, said: "We produce a leaflet, *Home Alone*, in which we try to guide parents on issues such as babysitting."

"We would not recommend leaving a child of 12 alone in a house for any length of time and certainly no 12-year-old could be regarded as being sufficiently mature to care for another child."

BA manager sacked after affair with boss

By ADRIAN LEE

A BRITISH Airways manager who had an affair with her boss was later sacked by his girlfriend, who was head of the airline's disciplinary panel, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Joanne Stansfield, 30, a former customer services manager, said that BA's disciplinary manager, Elaine Walker, had known about the affair, and should have disqualified herself from an investigation into allegedly unauthorised overtime payments.

Miss Stansfield told the hearing in Croydon, South London, that she had "an intimate liaison" with Pat Gaffey, then the general manager of Terminal Four at Heathrow, during a company trip to Edinburgh last year. A few months later, Miss Stansfield, who then had a salary package of £45,000, was disciplined for receiving unauthorised overtime payments and accused of forging a superior's signature. Miss Walker was placed in charge of the investigation.

Miss Stansfield, from Windsor, told the tribunal that during the disciplinary hearing Miss Walker was confrontational and became angry when she tried to introduce evidence. She said that, accused of forging a signature, she had asked for paperwork to be sent to a government laboratory for handwriting analysis but that Miss Walker did nothing until after the disciplinary hearing was completed. Miss



Joanne Stansfield, left, and Elaine Walker, who sacked her

Stansfield, who joined BA six years ago on a graduate finance scheme, was dismissed in January, but subsequently won an internal appeal and was reinstated as an operations executive on a salary of £25,000. She is claiming sexual discrimination and victimisation.

She said yesterday that a senior manager who had been found guilty in the overtime dispute was let off with a warning, and that fraud was rife among senior BA management.

She said that Mr Gaffey and Ms Walker enjoyed free trips together and that he had once used company money to have £1,000 worth of Concorde luggage delivered to her office. "After one of these trips, to Glenageary, a senior manager refused to sanction the excessive champagne bill," she said. Another senior manager,

she said, had used BA money to buy ties and duty-free goods and was known to ask his landlady to sign his expense forms.

Miss Stansfield told the hearing that she began work at BA as an auditor but was promoted and by June 1996, was receiving overtime payments for up to 120 hours a month. Her work involved dealing with celebrities, dignitaries and organising group travel.

Miss Stansfield said that she vigorously denied BA's allegations about her overtime, which had been approved by a manager from another section, and that Miss Walker "had very personal feelings about me".

Miss Stansfield said that she had lost a stone in weight, and as a result of the strain caused by the disciplinary action, was taking tranquillisers. The hearing continues.

Fatal jabs given by mother

A MOTHER injected her two young children with a lethal dose of insulin before using the syringe on herself.

Paula Wilkinson, a 33-year-old nurse, who was said to be leading a "schizophrenic existence" at the time of her death, was found lying beside Mark, 8, and Hannah, 5, at their home at Russett, Cheshire, an inquest was told yesterday.

Police forced their way into the house after reports that the family had not been seen for days. Detective Chief Inspector Peter Duffy said that two notes stated that Hannah had died at 6pm on June 27 and her brother three hours later.

Burial clothes were put out and Mrs Wilkinson's funeral wishes were made clear in her final messages. Mr Duffy said that inquiries into her mental state showed she was displaying one side of her character to family and a different side to colleagues and close friends.

A verdict of unlawful killing on the children and suicide by their mother was recorded. Paul Wilkinson, 34, her husband and the children's father, was too upset to talk after the hearing.

Costly victory in fight over fence

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

A FORMER Labour councillor and a language teacher who took each other to the High Court in an acrimonious boundary dispute were left out of pocket yesterday by a total of about £100,000 in legal costs when their case ended in a draw.

Graham Rush and his wife, Barbara, were awarded £4,750 in libel damages. Their former neighbour, Dagmar Coward, was awarded the same amount after a jury decided she had been assaulted.

The court heard that the dispute began in 1989 when Mr Rush moved into a house in Kidmore End, Berkshire, next door to Mrs Coward, 56, and her husband, who now live in Headington, Oxford.

Four years later the Rush family gained planning permission for an extension up to a fence, and the following October violence flared when Mr Rush and Colin Wyde, his builder, went to prop up the fence with wooden stakes.

A tussle ensued as Mrs Coward shook the fence every time they tried to hammer a stake

in, and Mr Rush ended up with a bitten arm. Mrs Coward, who was hit three times, smeared her blood on their faces.

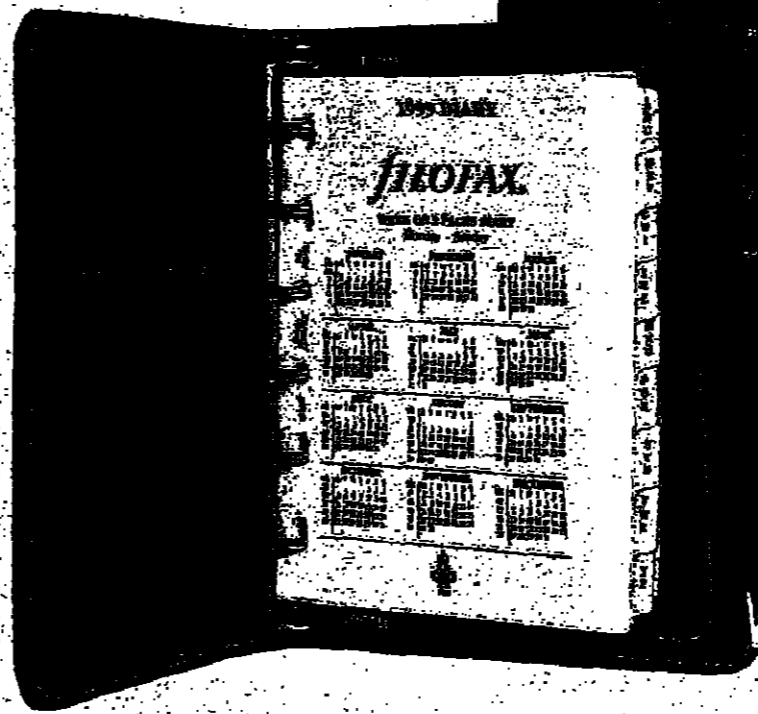
After the incident Mrs Coward was convicted on three counts of assault at Henley-on-Thames Magistrates' Court. An appeal at Oxford Crown Court was dismissed.

She was so enraged that she distributed two open letters accusing Mr Rush of assaulting her with a sledgehammer, lying and slandering her. She also accused Thames Valley Police, the Police Complaints Authority, the magistrates and Crown Court, the Lord Chancellor and the Home Secretary of negligence and incompetence.

At the end of the second trial - the first in June failed to reach a verdict - a jury awarded Mr Rush £3,500 and his wife £1,250, after ruling unanimously that they had been libelled. Then Mr Justice Gray also awarded Mrs Coward £4,750 in damages after the jury ruled that she had been assaulted by Mr Rush.

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Artist shows his view of the Turner Prize

By Russell Jenkins

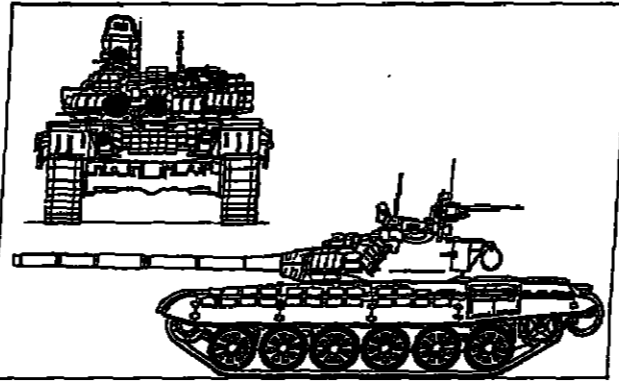
AN ILLUSTRATOR of military books yesterday dumped a load of fresh cow dung on the steps of the Tate Gallery to protest at the award of the Turner Prize last week to an artist who uses dried elephant manure in his paintings.

To cheers and some jeers from onlookers, Ray Hutchins, 66, shovelled muck from a neighbour's farm in the village of Huntley, near Cheadle, Staffordshire, and deposited it with a wheelbarrow at the gallery entrance.

A placard placed in the middle of the pile informed passers-by that the work was provisionally titled "Modern Art is a load of bullshit". It read: "A gift to the Arts Council of England, the Tate Gallery and the Turner Prize committee from a professional artist hoping to restore sense, perspective, colour perception and beauty back into art." The prize, worth £20,000, was won by Chris Ofili.

As gallery staff moved swiftly to clean up, Mr Hutchins, who runs a small publishing house, said: "I have been waiting to do this for years. It is time somebody made a stand against the idiocy of modern art. The general public on the whole dislikes it."

"Dead sheep and cows are one thing, but the elephant dung was the final straw for me. It was all started by Munch and Picasso; a real artist who can paint should have won the Turner Prize." Mr



Mr Hutchins shovelling, and a drawing of his. Could Picasso draw a tank? he asked

Hutchins then drove off only minutes before the police arrived.

A former Staffordshire county councillor, Mr Hutchins is a member of Cheadle Town Council, where he votes on behalf of the ratepayers' faction. He is known for his strong views, especially on modern art.

Earlier this week he posed with his barrow of dung, telling anyone who would listen how he was preparing to go to London to show them what he thinks of modern art. "Modern art is ugly," he said. "Modern architecture is mediocre and modern music is noisy. In fact, modern life is rubbish."

He dismissed modern artists as "shock merchants", singling out Damien Hirst and his animal carcasses in formaldehyde for special mention. Art died with Monet and the Impressionists, he insisted.

Picasso was overrated — "his Blue Period was medi-

ocre" — and of Andy Warhol, he said: "My daughter could do better."

Mr Hutchins, said to have served in the Korean War, has been a professional artist since 1957. At his studio in countryside outside Cheadle, he creates work that is meticulous and painstaking. He draws animals and cut-away depictions of tanks and planes with the same draughtsman's attention to detail.

It is that element of striving and dedication that is lacking in modern art, he believes.

Before heading for home, Mr Hutchins added: "Modern artists are desecrating my profession and the work of classical artists. Could Damien Hirst or Picasso do a cut-away sketch of a tank? No they couldn't, because they are not proper artists."

The Tate Gallery reacted with the aplomb of people used to the eccentricities of artists. A spokeswoman said that

the gallery did not want to comment. Mr Ofili was also anxious to steer clear of controversy. He said he was not interested in entering into an argument about modern art.

Claire Rowe, who works at the Victoria Miro gallery in Central London, where Mr Ofili's work is exhibited, said: "Chris does not need to defend his paintings. He has won the Turner Prize and I think that says enough on its own."

Charles Mallin, of Staffordshire Moorland District Council, said: "Mr Hutchins is quite well known as a man with strong views, quite an agitator, forever writing letters to the local newspaper. He is a very good artist. His work is certainly exacting with a scrupulous eye for detail."

After qualifying as a draughtsman Mr Hutchins worked for Rolls-Royce and Vickers Armstrong, and then as an illustrator for the Ministry of Defence.



Tate Gallery staff prepare to clean up after Mr Hutchins's eloquent protest

Calendar shows men behaving sadly

By Helen Johnstone

TWELVE government map makers have shed their grey suits and uncovered their own co-ordinates to raise money for charity.

The cartographic designers are the stars of a new calendar called *Men Behaving Sadly*. Aged between 27 and 58, and more at home creating Ordnance Survey maps, the men are pictured in various stages of undress and using a variety of items to cover their modesty.

John Paglia, 43, dreamt up the calendar after a joke from women colleagues at the Ordnance Survey headquarters in Southampton. "They thought it would be a right laugh for us to show our co-ordinates," he said. "I spread the word about and within half an hour there were 11 other volunteers who were up for it. There was no problem at all with the lads getting their kit off — they were only too willing."

Within days, photographs had been taken and 2,500 copies of the calendar produced. Proceeds from the venture — the calendars are selling at £2.50 each — will go to the children's charity Leukaemia Busters.

Management at the Ordnance Survey have approved the calendar. A spokesman said: "At first the bosses thought the lads had bare chest even thinking of the idea. They relented when they heard all the profits were going to charity."

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Dream guided treasure hunter to Roman coins

By Simon Dr Bruxelles

DREAMS led a treasure hunter to a hoard of almost 4,000 Roman coins buried in a Welsh field, a treasure-trove inquest was told yesterday.

Colin Roberts, 46, had searched the field with his metal detector without much success. But after he dreamt twice of a big find, he took a few hours away from his job as a plumber and returned. Yesterday his find was declared treasure trove, but he said he was more interested in seeing it in a museum than in receiving a reward, likely to be several thousand pounds.

Mr Roberts, from Newport, South Wales, told the inquest that he had found "the odd coin" in the field previously. "In my dream, I could see myself in the middle of the field pulling up a haul of coins. When I had the same dream a few nights later, I took a few hours of work next day. Normally, I would start by the



Both sides of a rare coin of Emperor Allectus, left

gate and work across but this time I went to the middle. I took two paces and my detector beeped." He found a coin fins down, and two more a few inches further. "I went over the patch again and my detector continued to beep. I dug further and couldn't believe my eyes. It is amazing."

He called in experts from the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff. Edward Beely, assistant keeper, said: "It is the best haul of Roman coins I have ever seen. There were 3,778 in total." The location of the field near Magor, Gwent, is being kept secret. After the hearing, Mr Roberts, who has five children, said: "All I want is to see the coins go on display. If they put a little card naming me as the finder, I would be very happy."

The find includes 700 coins from the three-year reign of the "Usurping" Emperor Allectus at the end of the third century. Unlike most coinages during the Roman occupation, they were minted in Britain.

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Hanratty appeal will be heard 36 years on

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

THE case of James Hanratty, executed in 1962 for the "A6 murder", will be sent to the Court of Appeal by the new miscarriages of justice authority.

The Criminal Cases Review Commission is set to announce the move 36 years after Hanratty, 25, was hanged at Bradford prison. It will be the final stage in a battle by his family and campaigners to prove his innocence. It is not yet clear whether the Crown Prosecution Service will fight or support the appeal.

After a 21-day trial he was convicted of killing Michael Gregsten, a civil servant, in August 1961. Mr Gregsten and his lover, Valerie Storie, were disturbed in a field near the Thames at Dorney Reach, Berkshire. The gunman forced them to drive to Deadman's Hill, south of Bedford, where he killed Mr Gregsten.

Miss Storie, 22, was raped, shot and left for dead. She was paralysed from the waist down but was still able to give

evidence against Hanratty. Now, after an 18-month investigation and more than six days deliberation, a panel of five members of the commission has concluded that Hanratty's conviction must be re-examined. They decided the Court of Appeal should review new scientific evidence involving recent DNA tests, alibi evidence for Hanratty and allegations about another suspect.

After the commission was established last year, the case was placed in the hands of one of its members, Baden Skitt, a former assistant commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. The commission's investigators ordered DNA tests on a handkerchief used by the killer to hold a gun.

There also been discussion of exhuming Hanratty's body and making comparisons with samples from his surviving brother, Michael, although the exhumation has not yet been carried out. The investigators also examined a report by Scotland Yard detectives three



Bindman to head the Hanratty legal team

years ago which concluded that Hanratty was innocent.

The commission will also have examined claims by campaigners about the evidence from Miss Storie. They say she saw her attacker for only a few seconds. She identified Hanratty, a petty burglar, on a second identity parade but admitted later her memory was already fading.

Campaigners say that witnesses who placed Hanratty

200 miles away in Blackpool at the time of the murder were not heard at the trial, and that evidence about another man, the first suspect investigated by police, was also not raised in court.

The panel of five who considered the evidence were Professor Leonard Leigh, convener of the law department at the LSE, Jill Cort, a defence lawyer, Fiona King, a solicitor in private practice with ten years' experience in the Crown Prosecution Service, Karamjit Singh, a Civil Service Commissioner and a former member of the Police Complaints Authority, and Tony Foster, a former ICI senior executive.

The material they gathered will be examined by the Hanratty legal team which is led by Geoffrey Bindman, a leading London solicitor. This could take up to six months and the case will then go before three appeal judges.

The case is the latest high-profile conviction handled by the commission. Earlier this year Derek Bentley, executed 45 years ago for the murder of a policeman, was cleared.



James Hanratty, hanged for the "A6 murder". The appeal court will hear new evidence

Race bias victim was white woman

A WOMAN who quit her job as a vehicle hire receptionist after only two days because she objected to her employers' ban on black and Asian customers was a victim of racial discrimination even though she was white, the Court of Appeal ruled.

The judges upheld earlier decisions that Veronica Sargent was constructively dismissed on racial grounds and was entitled to £5,000 compensation from Weathersfield Ltd, trading as Van & Truck Rentals, of Cardiff.

Her employer told her: "If you get a telephone call from any coloured or Asians you can usually tell them by the sound of their voice. You have to tell them there are no vehicles available."

Husband tried to hire killer to 'knock off' wife

By Russell Jenkins

A COFFEE shop owner who tried to recruit a hitman to murder his wife through the personal columns of *Exchange & Mart* was jailed yesterday for ten years.

Keith Rigby, 46, of Colcar, near Huddersfield, plotted to have his wife, Susan, "knocked off" in a fake car accident so that he could collect £156,000 in insurance money. Manchester Crown Court was told.

But the contract killer, who was to be paid £20,000 to make the murder look like an accident, was an undercover policeman. Their conversations, at a number of "clandestine" meetings, were taped.

Rigby showed no emotion as Judge Rhys Davies, QC, told him that he had shown a clear determination that his "frightful plan" should be carried out.

The judge said: "The clear impression is of a very careful, a very intelligent, a very determined and, I have to say, a very wicked man."

Rigby, who had pleaded not guilty to soliciting a murder, defended himself at the two-week trial. The jury was told that he had met his second wife, Susan, 44, after she answered his advertisement in a lonely hearts column. They married in 1993 after a whirlwind romance, but the relationship was stormy.

Mrs Rigby told the court that she had been forced to sign a prenuptial agreement on the eve of their wedding, demanding that she give up any claim to their house and the coffee shop they ran together. She also had her pet dog and cat put down.

Mrs Rigby, who has now divorced her husband, said: "I took it to be thought I was a gold-digger and out for half his house and business."

There was also friction between Rigby and his wife's son Nicholas, 17, from an earlier marriage. The court was told that Rigby wanted his wife killed so that he could "sort out" his stepson himself.

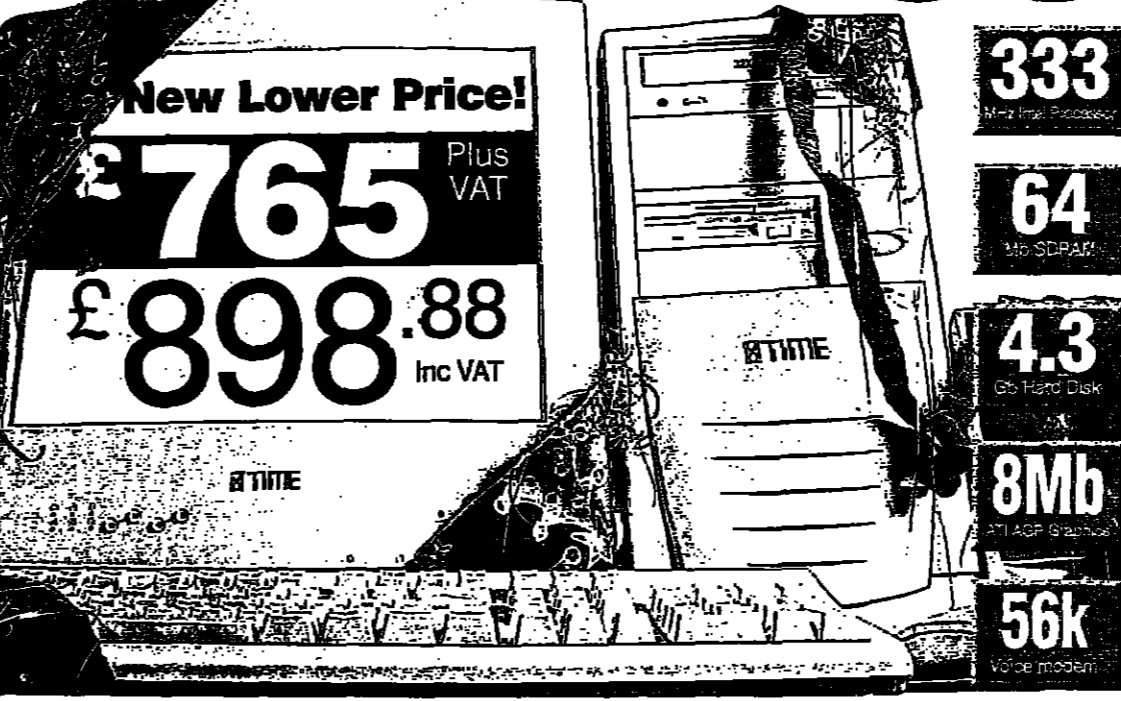
In June 1997, Rigby answered an advertisement in *Exchange & Mart* placed by Steven Robinson, who worked for a firm carrying out security duties for British Forces.

Rigby told Mr Robinson that he wanted someone "knocked off". Mr Robinson tipped off his employers, who quickly alerted the Royal Military Police.

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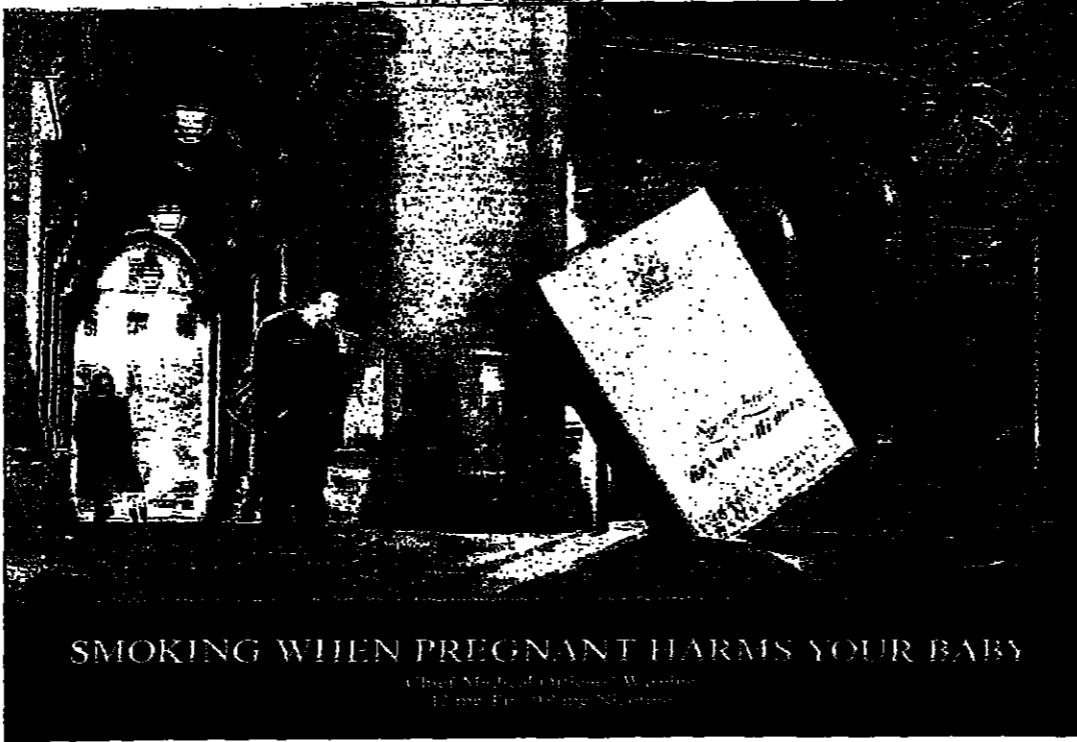
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Advertising agencies have been forced to use subliminal messages as word filters through that smoking can cause ill-health. "Cigarette advertising taxes the creative powers of the ad agencies more than any other product," an insider said

Ads that tested agencies' creativity

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE most enduring cigarette advertising campaign of the past 50 years was also the most disastrous. It showed a lonely soul with trenchcoat collar turned up, above the slogan: "You're never alone with a Strand." Strand cigarettes

rapidly disappeared from the market as the subliminal message went hopelessly wrong. Even in the relatively unsophisticated late fifties, Strand smokers were smart enough to realise that their peers looked on them as social cripples. Cigarette advertising in print and on poster — its main direct out-

let since being banned from television — has come a long way since then. Much of it is now so subliminal that, were it not for the compulsory health warning occupying a significant proportion of the space, the casual viewer might not guess that tobacco was being advertised at

all. Gallaher, the British manufacturer of Silk Cut, has adopted the subtle approach, based on the simple pun of cutting silk — an idea which reached its zenith in a poster of a piece of purple silk being shredded in a cheese grater. "It was acceptable in the sixties to show someone with a

cigarette in their hand, but as the message began to filter out that smoking was bad for you, the advertising agencies were forced to become much cleverer," one industry insider said last night. "Cigarette advertising taxes the creative powers of the ad agencies more than any other

product." Gallaher's other major British brand, Benson and Hedges, has also famously pursued an indirect style using its familiar gold packet in endless guises. Some of its posters have seemingly had nothing to do with cigarettes at all, including one which gave picture

and word clues to a crossword puzzle entirely unconnected with the product. It was not like the old days, when tobacco ads made simple, if dubious, claims. Capstan, unlike the ill-fated Strand, were "made to make friends", while Craven A said it "does not affect the throat."

Patches can save addicts

There is well substantiated evidence that the likelihood of hardened smokers giving up is doubled if they supplement will-power with patches that deliver a regular dose of nicotine through the skin.

These are of variable strength and can be selected to match the person's usual daily intake. The mistake is to choose too weak a patch.

An alternative is nicotine chewing gum. The smoker can use up to 15 pieces of nicotine-impregnated gum daily and should make each piece last for at least 30 minutes.

A third possibility is a Nicorette inhalator, a simulated cigarette holder that delivers a dose of nicotine equivalent to a cigarette. Its advantage is that it satisfies the ritualistic desire to hold something — the disadvantage is that it doesn't stop the craving in people who have been smoking more than 20 a day.

THOMAS STUTTFORD

Restaurants say diners prefer flexible approach

BY HELEN RUMBELOW

BARS and restaurants welcomed the voluntary approach of the charter as very few now offer non-smoking areas. Only 12 pubs in Britain and a tiny minority of restaurants have complete smoking bans of the kind that have been enforced in some American states. The big London restaurant chains such as Café Uno, Café Pasta, Belgo, or the Conran restaurants, do not have tables for non-smoking diners. In one Conran restaurant, Quaglinas, warnings appear at the bottom of the menus stating: "When smoking please be considerate of your neighbours." There are said to be few complaints.

Belgo said that smoking was allowed throughout restaurants but diners could be seated next to ventilation vents if they were particularly sensitive to smoke. Some bars and cafes believe they are either too open plan or too small for a non-smoking section to be effective. Good ventilation systems are thought to be a better investment. Bass, which manages All Bar One and O'Neill's as well as hundreds of pubs, said that it was aiming to go beyond government guidelines. A spokesman said: "All Bar One pubs have high ceilings and non-smoking areas so smoke is not so much of a problem. In other pubs we have much greater difficulties because of low ceilings and a

cozy atmosphere." J.D. Wetherspoon has had non-smoking areas in its 300 pubs since 1994. The company bans smoking at the bar and has spent £100,000 per pub on ventilation systems. However, the first British pub to have a complete smoking ban has since relented. The New Inn in Appleton in the Yorkshire Dales went smoke-free in 1971. But when John Pitchers bought the pub in 1986 he decided the ban was badly hitting business and dropped it. He said: "It was a great relief, but we are only now getting away from the stigma of it. It did blight the business as the locals would only come if every other pub was too full."

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Teenager with a £3m price on his feet

HE IS just 17 and he has yet to play a first-team Premiership game for his football club, West Ham United. Yet Joe Cole is already paid more than the Prime Minister, and yesterday Britain's richest football club let slip that they want to buy him for £3 million.

West Ham think the Manchester United bid absurd — but not because it is an enormous figure for an untested youngster. A spokesman said last night: "It may sound a lot but it will take ten times that to get Joe."

Football pundits describe Joe as "Paul Gascoigne with brains". West Ham were paying him £5,000 a week when he was still at school.

It is rumoured that his new deal, signed five months ago when he turned 17, guarantees him £1.5 million over the next five years. His reputed £20,000 a week is more than his father, George, a taxi driver, collects in a year as well as more than Tony Blair's salary.

If Joe remains in East London with the Hammers he is reportedly guaranteed £370,000 in the final year of his contract, almost £150,000 more than the Governor of the Bank of England.

Fears of 'inflationary spiral' grow as 17-year-old is paid more than Prime Minister, writes Daniel McGrory

Some see Manchester United's offer as evidence of the financial madness afflicting football. One senior figure in the players' union, the Professional Footballers' Association, conceded yesterday that it was worried about such vast sums being spent on untried youngsters. "It starts an inflationary spiral, so soon we will have clubs offering six-figure sums for kids still in primary school. We have to get some kind of perspective."

The boy wonder himself sees almost nothing of his vast earnings. His father still makes him get by on pocket money of £10 a week.

The club credit the family with ensuring that Joe is not seduced by the money. A family friend on the council estate in Camden, North London, where they still live said: "His parents treat Joe no differently from his younger brother and sister."

Joe was with his old schoolfriends recently and complained that he couldn't go out with them because he didn't have enough money.

His cash is going into a trust fund because, as his father is forever reminding him, football is a precarious business. His career was in jeopardy recently when he broke three toes after falling off a wall on holiday in Turkey.

Manchester United began courting Joe when he was still at St Aloysius college in Hornsey. His football coach there, John Simon, said: "You would not part with him for £3 million. He is literally a one-off and also a really nice lad from a smashing family who deserves success."

Five of his team-mates from the school side are now on youth training schemes with other football clubs. His best friend, Paul Ellis, is at Tottenham Hotspur. Mr Simon said: "They all like Joe, who was never boastful or cocky. He is and was one of the lads."

Joe's brother Nicky, 10 and sister Charlie, 11, watch every game but their mother, Sue, ensures that her eldest child is treated the same.

His father admitted that Joe, who is small for his age, would be a magnet for local girls wishing to court a celebrity, but said: "He really lives for his football. He goes out with his friends but he wants to make his name in the game."

West Ham emphasised that this was not evidence that he is as reckless as Gascoigne, and is another flawed genius. They say that he is not the sort to date a Spice Girl nor seek million-pound endorsements from sponsors for hair care. "The lad just doesn't seem to care about money," an official said.

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Growing gains, page 53



Joe Cole, right, in action for the England under-16 team: he is like Paul Gascoigne with brains, say admirers

Doctor is told to take more training

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A DOCTOR trained in Germany who was unable to measure blood pressure or give an injection has become the first qualified clinician to be suspended under procedures introduced 18 months ago by the General Medical Council.

Arefaine Halle qualified in Berlin in 1991, so under EU regulations he was eligible to register in Britain. In July 1997 he was taken onto a vocational training scheme at a general practice in the Bradford area of West Yorkshire.

The seniors in the practice were soon alarmed at his lack of basic skills. His colleagues tried to help by providing additional training and monitoring his work. It was decided that for the safety of patients he should not treat them and would only be allowed to observe other doctors working.

He was unresponsive to criticism and advice. In November 1997 he was dismissed from his trainee post and, although no patient had complained about him, the course organiser contacted the GMC.

Under the procedures introduced in July 1997 to scrutinise doctors whose performance appears deficient, the GMC's assessment referral committee directed in May that Dr Halle should be assessed.

He was tested on medical knowledge and skills and the committee agreed with the complaints made by the course organiser. It decided that his professional performance was seriously deficient and the GMC agreed that it was "necessary for the protection of members of the public" to suspend him for 12 months.

In nine months the committee will reassess his performance and shortly before the end of the 12-month suspension it will expect evidence that he has undergone training.

The GMC has advised him to seek the advice of the regional postgraduate dean of medicine, who will be asked to report on his progress before the committee decides whether to lift the suspension.

Pilot killed in crash had taken drugs

By A CORRESPONDENT

A PILOT killed when his plane crashed into a Welsh mountain had taken cannabis and amphetamines, an accident report said yesterday.

Shane Booker, 34, and his passenger Paul Pountney, 28, were heading for a friend's stag night in poor weather over Snowdonia.

The report quoted a pathologist's finding that the euphoria sometimes induced by amphetamines "may have been such to make him [the pilot] overconfident in a difficult situation". The Air Accidents Investigation Branch said that there was "no conclusive proof that the effects of these drugs was a contributory factor in this accident, but the possibility remains".

The accident happened on Trifan mountain on May 23 this year. The two men, from Market Harborough, Leicestershire, had left Leicester airport in a Cessna bound for Blackpool.

Examinations of the bodies found both men had taken drugs. "The level of cannabis in the pilot was such as to suggest recent smoking, perhaps within the last 24 hours," the report said.

The pilot had been advised of poor weather conditions but contact was lost with the plane, which crashed 2,540ft up on the east side of the south peak of the 3,000ft mountain.

The report concluded that decisions taken by the pilot were "unwise" and that his best option was a return to Leicester. When advised to divert, the pilot appeared to have interpreted this as diverting around the weather and continue on to Blackpool.

Once he had made this decision, the workload to complete the flight was high," the report said.

The crash report is the second in a month to highlight drugs. An accident report found that traces of cannabis had been found in the body of a helicopter pilot, Dean Woods, 39, who was killed in a crash near Andover in Hampshire in March 1998.

Car plates sold to RITCH buyers

By A CORRESPONDENT

A COLLECTION of number plates each made up of letters plus a single figure 1 were sold for more than £1 million yesterday.

The 33 sets of plates were auctioned in London for the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency.

One set, SIMON, was bought by an anonymous bidder for £59,000, almost twice the expected figure. But RITCH was snapped up for £9,000 by a National Lottery winner who gave his name as Lee Ryan, who won £6.5 million in March 1995.

Byron Roberts, spokesman for the DVLA, said: "He said he only ever gave his first name. He said he had bought them as an investment."

The proceeds of the £1,098,000 sale will go to the charity. The sale attracts the highest prices of a number held every year to auction newly created registrations.

The DVLA said: "We are exceptionally pleased. It's a particularly good result especially as people keep telling us we are going into, or have entered, a recession."

Fourteen phoned-in connecting enthusiasts from around the world helped to drive up prices in the sale, conducted by the auction house Brooks.

Oliver Strebel-River, a spokesman for the auction house, said that many buyers saw the plates as ideal presents for Christmas. "The DVLA can get them to people for Christmas so it is perfect for that."

Surprisingly ordinary prices

Pottery jobs hit by TV dinner trend

1,000 Royal Doulton workers go as casual eating culture takes its toll, reports Mark Henderson

THE declining popularity of formal dining dealt the Pottery a painful blow yesterday as the fine china maker Royal Doulton announced plans to cut 1,000 jobs.

Most of the cuts — which will see one in five of the firm's British workers laid off — will be made in the company's ceramics plants in Stoke-on-Trent, where it is the town's largest employer.

Royal Doulton has been hurt by the high value of the pound and the economic crisis in Asia, but its plight also reflects a long-term move away from formal dining. The company said that it had failed to market its products in a climate in which a set of fine china is no longer *de rigueur*. Domestic sales of fine tableware have declined sharply in recent years as families buy cheap and cheerful crockery that is as suitable for a pizza in front of the television as it is for a formal dinner party.

"There has been a definite change in lifestyles over recent years, and Royal Doulton has been somewhat slow in catching up with the trend," a spokesman said yesterday.

"Families don't eat together as often. More people are eating alone because they work shifts or are single, or they eat in front of the television. Even when people do have dinner parties the style is much more

casual and they may not use best crockery."

Exports, particularly to Asia, and sales of cheaper crockery and figurines have become crucial to the company's success. Exchange rates and the Asian financial crisis have hit the former, while the latter has suffered from poor branding and marketing.

It is a far cry from the late 19th century, when Stoke-on-Trent became famous as the home of pottery and china for high tables across the globe. Names like Wedgwood, Spode and Royal Doulton, which was awarded a royal charter by Edward VII in 1901, put Staffordshire on the map.

Stoke has now lost more than 4,000 jobs in the past 18 months, with Royal Doulton following Wedgwood, Biltons Tableware and Wren Gifts in shedding hundreds of staff.

Nearly all of the redundancies announced yesterday will be compulsory, with almost half completed by early January. Many staff left work in tears after being told to start their Christmas breaks early, with no guarantee that they would be required afterwards.

Workers at the St Mary's factory, which is now marked down for closure, said that they had had to wait in the canteen for managers to announce the cuts from a makeshift dais. One said: "We have



Fragile tradition: Stoke-on-Trent has long been the home of fine pottery but Royal Doulton is having to adapt to lifestyle changes and falling demand

been told that after tomorrow we don't have to come back to work. We are so angry at the way we were told. They created a stage in the middle of the canteen and we had to stand around and wait for them."

Barry Stockley, the leader of the Labour-controlled Stoke-on-Trent council, said that the

Government had not done enough to help companies like Royal Doulton that had been hurt by high interest and exchange rates. "This will have a devastating effect on the North Staffordshire economy," he said. "I hope this is not just the start of the problems."

George Stevenson, the La-

bour MP for Stoke-on-Trent South, said: "The irony is that there could well be a further cut in interest rates tomorrow. It's tragic that these body blows come just before Christmas — it's not much good talking to these people about interest rates."

Geoff Bagnall, general secre-

tary of the Ceramic and Allied Trades Union, said: "It's certainly one of the blackest days this industry has faced in many, many years."

The firm had announced nearly 800 job losses in the past 18 months, and yesterday wrote off £2 million that had been invested in a new factory

in Indonesia. Other jobs may also go at the firm's glass factories in Perth and Wick in Scotland and at Stourbridge in the West Midlands. Poorly performing shops and retail franchises will be closed, and 200 jobs may be cut overseas.

Business news, page 29

NEWS IN BRIEF

Car bomb driver gets 15 years

A former Irish soldier who was hired to take a car bomb twice the size of the Omagh bomb to England was jailed for 15 years in Dublin. Larry Keane, 41, was offered £2,000 to drive a BMW containing 980lb of home-made explosive. He was arrested as he waited to board a ferry at Dun Laoghaire in April.

Keane, from Adhy, Co Kildare, admitted having the device with intent to endanger life or to enable another person to do so. The court was told that the father of six had no connection to any illegal organisation.

Teenager killed

A teenager who died under the wheels of a bus is believed to have been pushed into the vehicle's path during a scuffle. Police said that Kevin Cooke, 18, of Kirkinilloch, near Glasgow, became involved in an "altercation" with a man after getting off a bus.

Rare eggs seized

A man was arrested after more than 2,000 rare birds' eggs were found in raids on houses in Shoeburyness and Stanford le Hope, Essex. The haul included skylark and linnet eggs and 30 from little terns, which have only 2,400 breeding pairs left in Britain.

Bus fall kills boy

A boy aged seven died in front of his friends when he fell from a moving bus during a game of "chicken". Paul Nixon, of Carlisle, was killed after he jumped on to the back of the single-decker and tried to cling on. He lost his grip and fell to the road.

Unclear winner

The Welsh MP Rhodri Morgan has been awarded this year's Plain English Campaign's Foot in Mouth prize. Asked on *Newsnight* if he would like to stand as Labour leader in the Welsh Assembly, he replied: "Does a one-legged duck swim in circles?"

Britain's wolves survive in hundreds of places on map

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE long forgotten lairs of the wolf have been traced by scientists studying the link between British place names and wild animals.

The findings, to be announced at a meeting of the Mammal Society in Edinburgh today, reveal that more than 230 English towns, villages and hamlets alone are named after wolves — many more than previously believed.

The cry of the wolf was silenced

in the 17th century but its memory lives on in places such as the West Yorkshire town of Woodale, which derives from *wulf dael* or "wolf valley".

Derek Yalden, of Manchester University, said yesterday that many people falsely believed place names with the word *wolf* were linked with sheep or the wool trade. But detailed studies of parish and ancient records showed that many of these places were homes, gathering points, play areas or hunting grounds for wolves. Woolmers in

Cheshire derives from the old English *wulfa* and *mor* to mean "wolves' moor".

"Similarly Woolpit in Suffolk had nothing to do with washing wool, but was probably a pit for trapping wolves," Dr Yalden said.

Other names include Ullock Mains and Ullock Moss in Lancashire and Ulvethwait in Lancashire. They derive from *ulfr*, the Old Norse for wolf, and mean "places where wolves play" and "wolf clearing".

But Dr Yalden said many places

with seemingly obvious links to wolves had quite different origins. Wolverhampton, home of the Wolves football team, actually means the "high town of Wulfrun" — a wealthy Saxon landowner.

The study has also revealed details about the wolf's former habitat. Half of the place names are linked to minor features such as field names, while 16 per cent refer to hills, 17 per cent to clearings, 10 per cent to valleys and 9 per cent to woods where *Canis lupus* roamed. Another 18 per cent refer to wolf pits

and "the traditional means of controlling wolves". In Scotland the Gaelic for wolf is *maddadh*, as in Drummoddie in Wigtonshire, which means "wolf ride" or "ridge".

Old Welsh for wolf is *bleidd*, as in Castell y Blaidd in Radnor, meaning "wolf's castle".

Place names referring to beavers are less numerous. The creatures were hunted for fur and glands, and possibly wiped out by the 16th century.

Twenty places with names deriving from the small animals are scat-

tered across low-lying England. The research also unearthed place names linked to mammals that still thrive, such as Reigate, meaning "the gate of the deer".

Todmorden in West Yorkshire refers to a home for foxes on the moor, and names with brock, such as Brocton, are likely to refer to badgers.

Surviving place names for other extinct British mammals have proved even more elusive, possibly because they were nearly or fully exterminated by Anglo Saxon times.

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Rock star wins copyright battle and seeks £2m

Joanna Bale reports on Springsteen's glory day in court

BRUCE Springsteen is to seek £2 million in damages after winning his High Court battle yesterday against two British companies that breached his copyright. The American rock star known as "The Boss" travelled to London to hear the judgment before a public gallery full of his fans.

Mr Justice Ferris ruled that Robert Tringham, who ran the now defunct Flute International Ltd, had infringed copyright of some songs written and recorded by Springsteen at the beginning of his career 26 years ago.

The singer was given permission to seek £2 million in damages. He was also granted an injunction stopping Masquerade Music, based in West London, from releasing an album of his early songs. The judge awarded Springsteen his £500,000 court costs against Masquerade, whose lawyers said they would appeal.

Springsteen, 50, who has always fiercely guarded his songs, said after the hearing: "I am very happy. I came here to defend my right to my music. It's something that I have fought for since I was young and I am really satisfied."

"The music that you release is the way you shape your career. It's a big part of what you say and the way you say it. It's an artistic question and an aesthetic judgment that should be left to the songwriter."

"The music that you come up with when you are sitting in your room alone in your room with your guitar late at night is one of the most personal things in your life. I really didn't come here for the money. It's taken a long time and I won't hesitate to do it again."

Flute, which was not pursued in the action because it is in compulsory liquidation, released the Springsteen songs on albums entitled *Unearthed* and *Unearthed II* in 1996. Masquerade imported 75 copies of the CD *Before the Fame* in 1997 and "threatened to release many further copies of this disc", the judge said.

Springsteen, whose hits include *Born in the USA* and *Dancing in the Dark*, "took exception" to the release of 19 songs that he wrote between 1972 and 1974.

His counsel, Nigel Davis, QC, told Mr Justice Ferris at a hearing in October that the early recordings, which had never been legitimately released, were valuable because of Springsteen's huge following. He said that the singer owned the copyright and Masquerade's actions were an attack on his artistic integrity.

Mr Davis told the court yesterday: "Mr Springsteen is very pleased that his claims to ownership of the words and music have been entirely upheld and vindicated. It is to be regretted that it proved necessary to have a fully contested trial to establish those rights but Mr Springsteen is determined to take all necessary steps to prevent the unauthorised release of his output."

Springsteen, who lives in his native New Jersey with his second wife, Patti Scialfa, and their three children, left the High Court for Paris, where he was to perform at a charity concert for Amnesty International last night.

Ronald Winter, the director of Masquerade, said after the hearing: "Well, it was to be expected. Once the judge had accepted Bruce has copyright then we had lost. Of course, our argument is that he doesn't have the documents to prove he has the copyright. We are definitely going to appeal — this is going to a second round."

Asked how much his High Court excursion had cost, Mr Winter said: "Half a million."



Bruce Springsteen outside court. "I didn't come here for for the money," he said

RSPCA angry at zoo chief's hunting link

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE head of London Zoo has been condemned by the RSPCA for accepting the post of chief executive at the pro-hunting Countryside Alliance.

Richard Burge, who will start the £70,000-a-year job on February 1, said he saw no conflict between hunting and concern for the welfare of animals. But the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals urged Mr Burge to "do his homework" by studying a report which said that hunted deer suffered extreme stress that amounted to cruelty.

The report was commissioned by the National Trust and led the charity to ban stag-hunting on its land in the West Country. But the findings, by Professor Patrick Bateson of Cambridge University, have been challenged by other scientists.

Mr Burge, Director-General of the Zoological Society of London, which runs London Zoo and Whipsnade Zoo in Bedfordshire, was chosen earlier this month to lead the Countryside Alliance. The alliance was formed in 1997 by an amalgamation of groups, including the British Field Sports Society, to defend hunting. It is broadening its remit to champion all aspects of country life. The previous chief executive, Edward Duke, angered members by sacking a popular press officer and resigned after only three months.

Mr Burge, 40, is a lifelong Labour voter and has never hunted with hounds but has shot pheasants and fished. He became director-general of the zoological society in 1995 and within two years had turned heavy losses into a £1 million surplus.

Mr Burge said last week that he did not see any conflict of interest between his present job, caring for animals, and his new post.

which would involve the public defence of hunting. "I do not believe that hunting is an antithesis to conservation," he said.

"I have not seen any evidence that hunting is primarily a welfare issue. There are a lot more important animal welfare issues out there, concerned with food hygiene and health and excessive bureaucracy that means that people have to treat animals in a way that they prefer not to treat them."

Charlotte Morrissey, the RSPCA's head of press, said: "It is absurd to pretend that hunting is not primarily about animal welfare. For us cruelty is at the very heart of this debate, and Professor Bateson's report provides ample scientific evidence."

Mr Burge declined to respond to the RSPCA but the alliance said that he stood by his comment. "Far from being about the destruction of wildlife, hunting and other country sports help to maintain the habitat which allows wild animals to thrive," said Paul Latham, a spokesman. "Mr Burge is well acquainted with Professor Bateson's report. Many of his conclusions are challenged in a separate study which we commissioned."

"That study was conducted by Roger Harris, now Professor of Sports Science and Sports Medicine at Southampton University, and Douglas Wise, of Cambridge University's veterinary school. They said that the stress deer suffered when hunted was no greater than that considered acceptable for racehorses or human sportsmen."

The zoological society said yesterday: "We would like to make clear that Mr Burge's views on countryside issues are his own and his association with the alliance does not alter the mission or philosophy of the society."



Ronald Winter, of Masquerade, with the disputed CD

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MURDER OF CROWS Tom Berenger stars in this gripping film in which a disabled lawyer becomes involved in a homicide investigation starring Cecilia Quisenberry Gooding Jr. SAT 12TH - 10pm



A MURDER OF CROWS Tom Berenger stars in this gripping film in which a disabled lawyer becomes involved in a homicide investigation starring Cecilia Quisenberry Gooding Jr. SAT 12TH - 10pm



GARGANTUA A big-budget family action adventure with special effects to rival even those of Godzilla. Starring Adam Baldwin. SUN 13TH - 7pm

DIANA AND ME Romantic comedy starring Toni Collette (Muriel's Wedding), who sets out to meet Princess Diana and falls for a paparazzi photographer. SUN 13TH - 9.30pm



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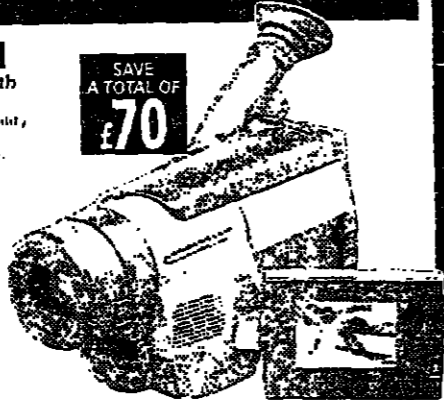
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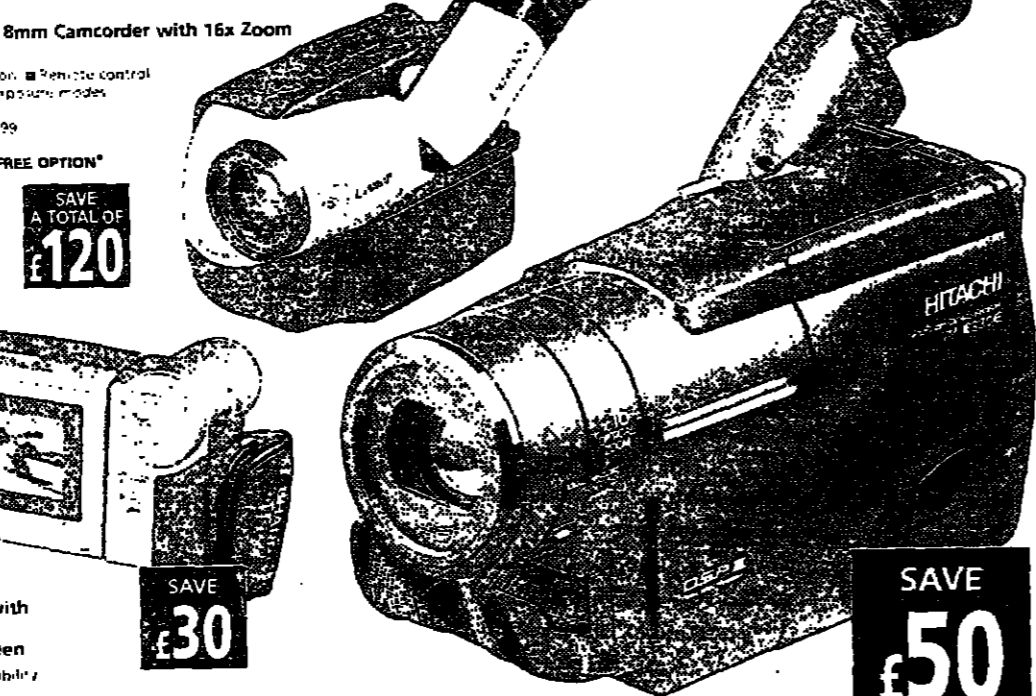
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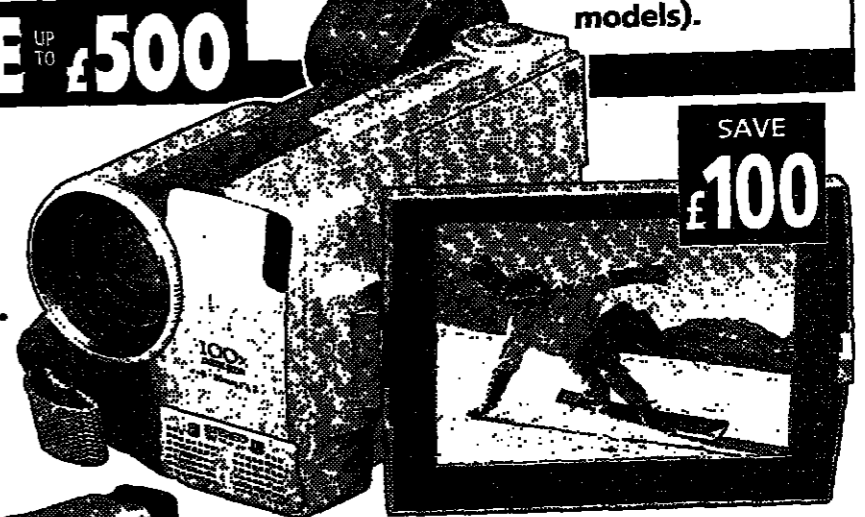
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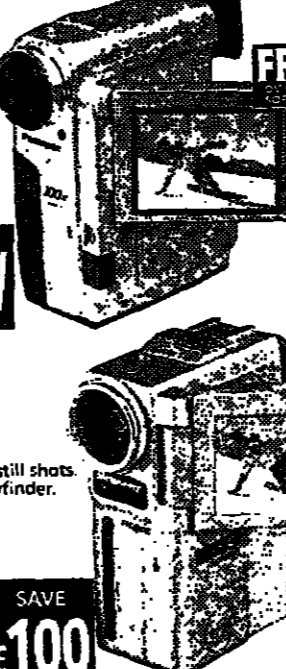
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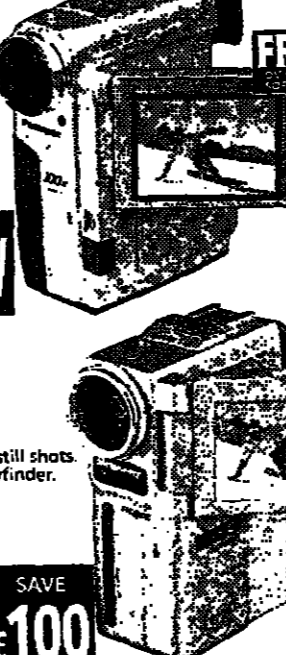
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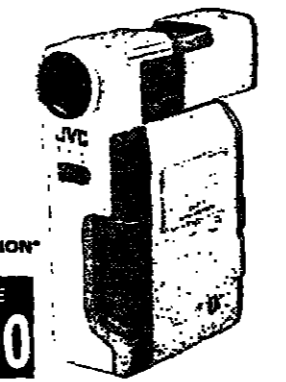
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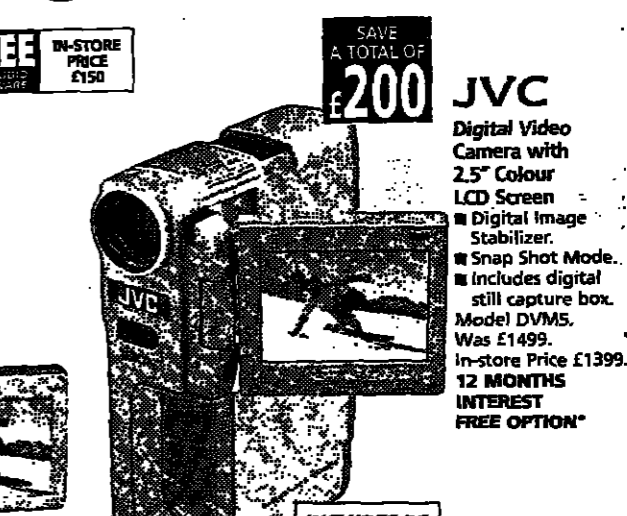
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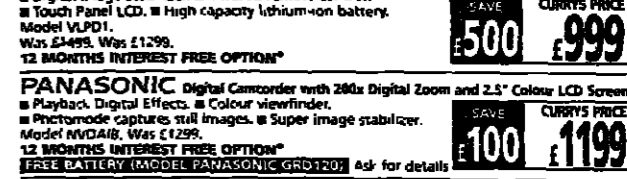
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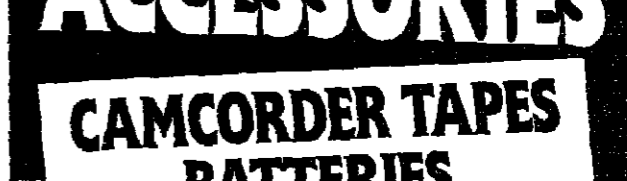
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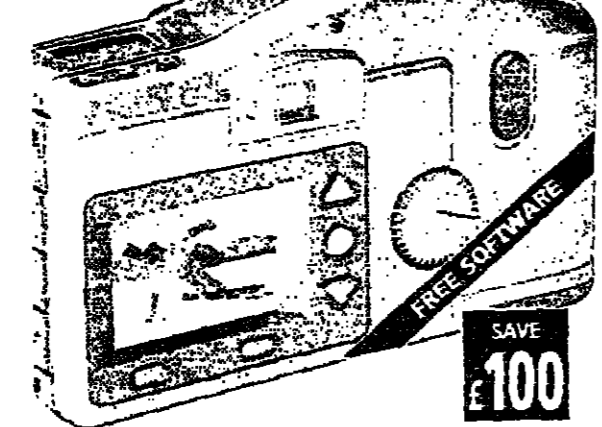


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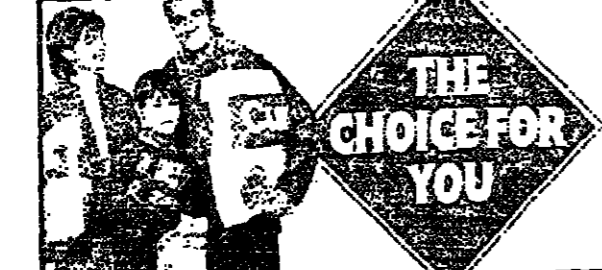
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Huntmaster banned at drink-drive retrial

Magistrates impose harsher penalty after protests that fine was too lenient, reports Simon de Bruxelles

A HUNTMASTER who escaped a drink-driving ban because he was driving his injured wife home yesterday lost his licence for three years after magistrates were told that they had been too lenient. Rodney Ellis, 57, was twice the drink-drive limit when he was stopped as he drove his wife Georgina, 41, home from a hunt ball. He told police it was an emergency because his wife had injured her leg in a fall while riding 12 hours earlier, and he was rushing her home because she was in pain.

ston, chairwoman of the bench responsible for the original sentence, imposed the ban, telling Ellis: "Our hands are tied. We can do nothing else."

It emerged during the three-minute hearing at Kernet Magistrates' Court in Devizes, Wiltshire, that Ellis had a previous conviction for drink-driving and had been banned for a year in 1991.

Ellis, who is joint master of the Tedworth Hunt, was stopped in the early hours of March 23 as he drove his wife home to Burbage, near Marlborough.

Andrew Jenkins, for Ellis, said at the original hearing that the huntmaster had accompanied his wife during a meeting of the hunt in Savernake Forest earlier that day. Mrs Ellis had fallen from her horse and been taken to hospital and then allowed home. She had gone to the dinner ex-



Johnston: had believed Ellis faced an emergency

glasses of whisky. She said: "We had to go out because it was a dinner for the hunt and for the people on whose land we had been hunting."

Lady Johnston, wife of the Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Lieutenant-General Sir Maurice Johnston, originally fined Ellis £450 with £100 costs, but decided against a driving ban. She told him: "You had just cause in driving because this was a sufficient emergency."

Maria Cape, of the Campaign Against Drink Driving, who wrote to the Attorney-General to protest at the decision, said yesterday: "At last justice has been done. The original sentence sent out entirely the wrong message."

Neither Lady Johnston nor Ellis would comment yesterday. A spokesman for the Lord Chancellor's Department said: "This is the equivalent of a serious slap on the wrists for the magistrates involved. It is not common for the Court of Appeal to order a case to be re-heard. The implication is that the magistrates got it wrong on a point of law and ought to look at it again."

pecting to get a lift home from friends.

Mr Jenkins told the court: "During the dinner, Mrs Ellis decided she wanted to go home. Realising she was in a great deal of pain, Mr Ellis asked the friend if they could have a lift."

"The friend didn't want to leave and Mr Ellis thought he had no choice but to drive Mrs Ellis home himself."

Mrs Ellis said that her husband, who admitted drink-driving, had drunk only two



Rodney Ellis leaving court yesterday. He was also banned for drink-driving in 1991

Holiday couple's house wrecked

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A COUPLE returned from a fortnight in the sun to find that their home had been invaded by a gang of youths. Ten teenagers had wrecked the semi in a quiet cul de sac, damaged Jackie and Paul Owen's camper van and written off the family car on a joyride.

The couple face a bill of more than £3,000 for repairs and replacement of stolen items, which include a hi-fi and clothes used by Mrs Owen for her aerobics business.

The youths told neighbours that they were family friends and had permission to be in the house at Aston, Sheffield.

Mrs Owen, 39, said: "I will never forget coming back from Majorca and seeing the mess." Police said a youth from a village ten miles away had been charged in connection with the incident.

Poison woman given six years

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN of 62 who tried to poison her mother's neighbours was jailed yesterday for six years. June Cronin-Simpson drilled holes into the walls and inserted piping to pour in a mix of petrol and chemicals.

Bristol Crown Court was told that she had refused to cooperate with a psychiatric assessment after being convicted last month of three charges of causing a noxious substance to be administered. Judge Peter Thomas described her as a "potentially very dangerous lady" and said that he had no alternative but to jail her because of her failure to co-operate with the doctors.

The attacks were apparently motiveless because Cronin-Simpson was scarcely known

to her mother's neighbours, Julian Geard, his wife Joyce and daughter Rosemary, 18, in Yeovil, Somerset. The family were said to have been mystified by the incidents.

Mr Geard had noticed a mixture dribbling down the walls of his bathroom in December 1997. The judge said that Cronin-Simpson's action was "exceptionally dangerous". It was fortunate that no ignition had taken place in the Geards' home.

Later, Mr Geard found four smokebombs, used to kill moles and rats, in the roof space. They had charred the insulation materials.

Cronin-Simpson, also from Yeovil, was arrested two days later and sectioned for some weeks under the Mental Health Act.

Malcolm Galloway, representing Cronin-Simpson, said that a psychiatrist who examined her in October could find no evidence of mental disorder. While on remand in prison, she had proved a model prisoner, he said.

Cronin-Simpson was jailed for six years on each charge, the sentences to run concurrently. She had one previous conviction for attacking a woman in the street after drinking too much. Her 85-year-old mother is now in care.



Cronin-Simpson: she was 'potentially very dangerous'



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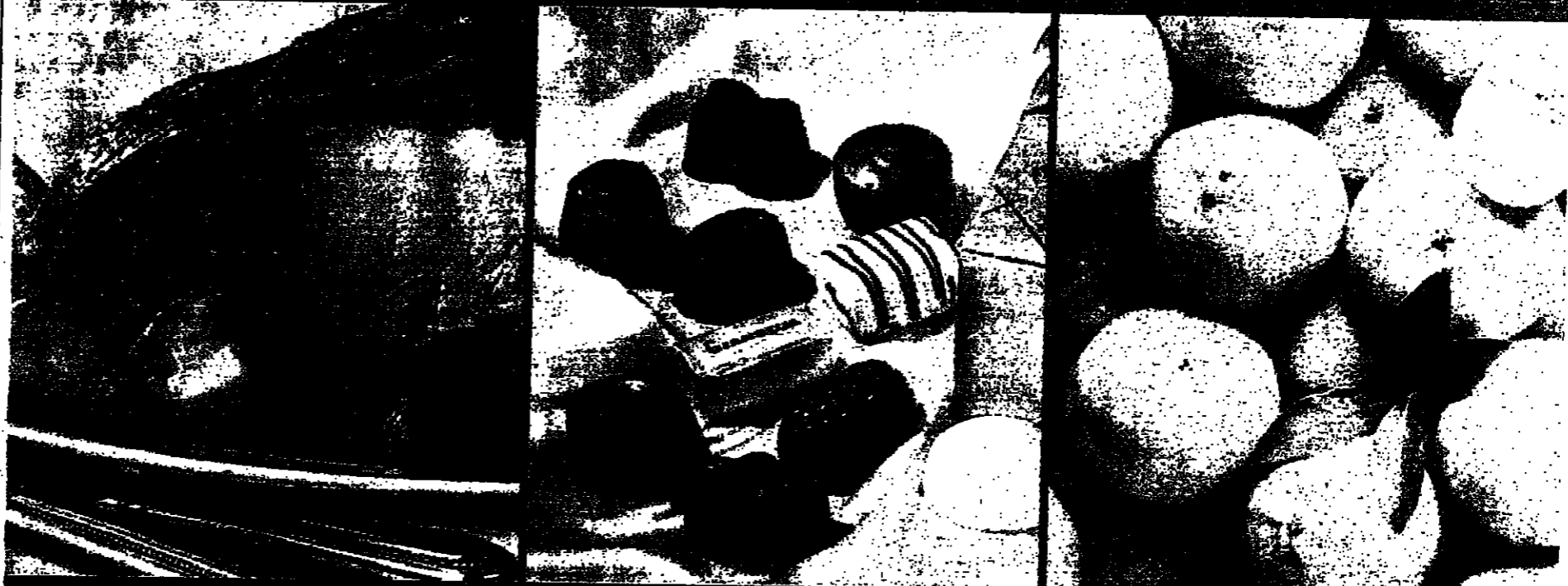
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Trimble raises pressure on IRA to disarm

Martin Fletcher
on the tension underlying a day of honour for Ulster's Peace Prize winners

DAVID Trimble used the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Oslo yesterday to increase the pressure on the IRA to begin disarming.

Undaunted by the solemnity and grandeur of the occasion, Northern Ireland's First Minister insisted that any further delay would reinforce "doubts about whether Sinn Féin are drinking from the clear stream of democracy or is still drinking from the dark stream of fascism".

Addressing a worldwide television audience and 3,000 dignitaries, including the King and Queen of Norway, Mr Trimble even suggested that John Hume, his fellow Nobel laureate and the SDLP leader, should give him more support on the issue, and that despite pressure from Unionists: "I have not insisted on precise dates, quantities and manner of decommissioning. All I have asked for is a credible beginning... That is not too much to ask for."

Martin McGuinness of Sinn Féin responded angrily, saying that Mr Trimble's speech "showed no understanding of the efforts nationalists and republicans have made to create the current situation." Mr Hume insisted that paramilitaries comply with the Good Friday accord, but

said that the crucial thing was that their weapons were not being used.

The day of pomp and pageantry set the seal on a year of astonishing developments in Northern Ireland. Mr Trimble and Mr Hume were treated like world statesmen as they followed in the footsteps of Mikhail Gorbachev, Nelson Mandela, Mother Teresa and the Dalai Lama.

Motorcades whisked them through snowy streets to an audience with King Harald and Queen Sonja, to the prizegiving ceremony in the cavernous City Hall, and to a formal banquet in the Grand Hotel. At his wife's insistence the frequently ruffled Mr Hume had bought a new tie.

Mr Hume and Mr Trimble did not always appear comfortable with the adulation. Before the ceremony they stood awkwardly on a stage on Oslo's misty waterfront where 5,000 children had been gathered to cheer them. Mr Trimble waved stiffly. Mr Hume gave his trademark thumbs-up sign. They lit a beacon together, but neither spoke.

Nor did they appear entirely comfortable with each other. They gave many joint interviews, and made unscripted joint appearances, but did not publicly shake hands or exchange small talk. Asked whether they were friends there was a pause before Mr Trimble replied: "We have a good working relationship."

Their political differences are deep and long-standing, of course. In 1974 Mr Trimble supported the Loyalist workers strike that brought down the Sunningdale executive in which Mr Hume was a minister. Their different styles and approaches to politics were to be vividly illustrated by their acceptance speeches.

The ceremony began with the pair being led down the City Hall's central aisle as plumed King's Guards played a fanfare and the audience rose to applaud. The hall was decorated with orange and green floral arrangements, and its walls with giant murals of a more peaceful nature than some of those in Belfast.

Introducing the two laureates, Francis Sejersted, the Norwegian Nobel committee chairman, praised Gerry Adams' contribution to the peace process. Recalling that the 1976 prize went to Mairead Corrigan and Betty Williams, Northern Ireland's "Peace Women", he acknowledged that this year's awards were premature, but said it was important to "focus on the advances". Mr Trimble and Mr Hume were given gold medals and diplomas, the flautist James Galway performed, then Mr Hume rose to speak.



John Hume, left, and David Trimble acknowledging well-wishers in Oslo yesterday

their strength to face another day." "A quiet heroism has borne silent rebuke to the evil that violence represents, to the carnage and waste of violence, to its ultimate futility," he said.

He compared the Province's proposed new political structures to those that brought peace to Europe after the Second World War by allowing

different traditions to work together for the common good. But above all he spoke of his vision for a harmonious Ireland built on respect for diversity.

Mr Trimble responded to Mr Hume's poetry with prose. He decried "vague and visionary statements" and reminded his audience of the "spectres at the feast." He commended

"the practical politics of peace-making", whose practitioners pay close attention to detail and "walk rather than run."

But Mr Trimble ended optimistically, saying that, although there were hills ahead, the mountain of "historical sectarianism," had been crossed.

Leading article, page 25

Feuding Gypsies settle with their shirts on

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A FEUD between two prominent characters in the Gypsy community has been settled — not by bare fists at Appleby Fair but at the more conventional venue of the High Court.

The dispute between Hughie Smith, president of the National Gypsy Council, and a group of Gypsies including Eili Frankham, president of the Romany Rights Association, has led to a three-year libel battle involving nine writs and more than a hundred allegations.

But at a recent High Court hearing in Leeds, Mr Smith — faced with the prospect of a three-week High Court trial and a hefty legal bill — withdrew his actions.

He said: "I had no choice because they have dragged things out and kept chopping and changing things and the costs at the end just wouldn't have been worth the candle."

The dispute arose over the running by Mr Smith of a number of official Gypsy caravan sites across the country. But it also involved heated allegations over who has a genuine claim to be a Gypsy.

Mr Frankham, 70, says Mr Smith is a self-elected president who hoodwinked local councils into paying him to run the sites. He and others accuse Mr Smith of a host of offences, from dishonesty to lies. Mr Smith has vigorously denied those claims and in turn says his accusers include a "bunch of academic crackpots who are not real Gypsies at all, whereas", he adds, "my mother was an Irish tinker".

Mike Tilbury, of Pearson and Partners in King's Lynn, who acted for Mr Frankham, said that Mr Frankham had offered to meet Mr Smith at Appleby Fair and take his shirt off to sort it all out. "But Mr Smith opted for a rather more expensive route." He estimated that Mr Smith, who was ordered to pay the defendants' legal costs, faces a bill of about £50,000.

But Mr Smith's solicitor, David Pedley, of Turners in Keighley, West Yorkshire, said that costs would be challenged.

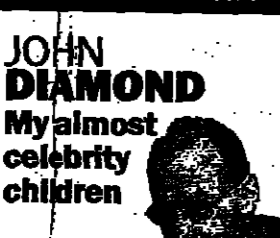
TOMORROW IN THE times

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My private snaps



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The revolutionary who must bring Lords down

FOR MPs, peers and civil servants, it is an intriguing party game for Christmas. But for the Government, it is one of the most important decisions this year.

For whoever is chosen to chair the royal commission on the House of Lords, to be set up early next year, will take control of one of the most radical constitutional reforms this century. Urgent consultations are taking place across Whitehall to find the right man or woman to head the body and, although shortlists have been drawn up, no decision has been reached on one of the most important appointments of Tony Blair's premiership.

"Discussions are ongoing about potential candidates," one official said. "But nothing has been decided yet. Everything is at a very sensitive stage."

Officials were forced to redouble their efforts to find a suitable candidate when the Government last week brought forward its plans for Lords reform. The emergence of a possible cross-party deal on the first-stage reform of expelling hereditary peers meant that the royal commission considering wider reforms could be set up five months earlier than expected. The Prime Minister is expected to select a chairman over Christmas.

The Times today sets out its own list of contenders for both the chair and membership of the commission.

The Government is under-

The chair of the royal commission into reforming the Upper House will be chosen over Christmas, write

Valerie Elliott and James Landale

stood to have ruled out appointing a judge as chair, and is considering whether it can break with tradition and appoint an overtly political figure. One Labour source said: "We want someone who is independent of position but not of mind."

Contenders could include former senior civil servants who know how to handle a committee, such as a former Cabinet Secretary, Lord Butler of Brockwell, or Lord Burns, a former Permanent Secretary at the Treasury.

Both are experienced Whitehall hands and could be relied upon to report on time. Harold Wilson once said that a royal commission "takes minutes and wastes years" and the Government will be keen to find someone who can meet the deadlines.

What it seeks in the commission members is less clear. Baroness Jay of Paddington, the Leader of the Lords, has said that she wants the membership to go beyond party politicians because "interest in this issue spreads broader than the Palace of Westminster".

Academics, retired professionals, and constitutional lawyers may be considered, but

senior Labour industrialists have suggested that the Government will find it harder than before to entice businessmen onto its latest quango. "Look what happened to Sir Richard Greenbury [the chairman of Marks & Spencer] over top people's pay," one Labour peer said.

But at the commission's heart is expected to be a group of veteran parliamentarians from both Houses. These could include the Labour constitutional expert Lord Plant of Highfield, the Liberal Democrat fixer Lord Holme of Cheltenham, or even John Major, the former Prime Minister. One suggestion doing the rounds at Westminster is that the Government might pick Viscount Cranborne, the recently sacked Tory leader in the Lords, as a mischievous candidate.

The commission will be set up shortly after the first-stage Bill removing the hereditary peers is introduced in January. With the Bill will come a White Paper setting out the commission's terms of reference and announcing its chair.

Ministers — in consultation with the chair — will then appoint the members of the com-

mission. Although some royal commissions have reached the unwieldy size of 25 members, the Government is expected to restrict this one to between eight and 12. The White Paper, which will also set out the Government's short-term plans for the transitional House, will require the commission to report within 18 months. The report will be put before a committee of both Houses of Parliament, as promised in the Labour manifesto.

Although some ministers feel that this is unnecessary and will cause delay, many MPs and peers believe it is a vital step. Andrew Mackinlay, Labour MP for Thurrock, tabled a Commons question this week urging the Prime Minister to stick to his promise of a joint committee. "A royal commission of the great and the good and the political glitterati are no substitute for the promised committee of parliamentarians," he said.


Once a workable consensus is found, the Government will publish its plans for second-stage reform. Ministers hope legislation might be introduced before the next general election, although this is considered optimistic at Westminster.

The most likely outcome is that the royal commission's proposals will be incorporated in Labour's next manifesto and be introduced in the first Queen's Speech of the next parliament.

Mary Ann Sieghart, page 24

LIST OF POSSIBLE CONTENDERS FOR ROYAL COMMISSION

POSSIBLE CHAIRMAN	POSSIBLE MEMBERS
Lord Butler of Brockwell, 62, former Cabinet Secretary. Strategic aide part of House of Lords plan for the Bill.	Academics David Gifford, lecturer in Politics at Bristol University. Strategic, leading academic expert on House of Lords. Weakness: not part of Labour establishment.
Lord Burns, 54, former Treasury Permanent Secretary. Strategic: currently competent but available. Weakness: might be vetoed by Gordon Brown.	Patrick Dunne, 46, Professor of Government at London School of Economics. Strategic: leading expert, advised Joint Committee on PE. Weakness: not a Lord.
	David Butler, 74, Emeritus Fellow of Hertford College, Oxford. Strategic: huge experience in education. Weakness: might be unwilling to stand.
	Constitutional Experts Michael Latham, QC, 52, President of Kings College London. Strategic: fine mind, constitutional expert. Weakness: lacks base in House of Lords and House of Commons.
	David Pannick, 62, QC, barrister, Fellow of All Souls. Strategic: brilliant and pro-Labour. Weakness: young and possibly too distant.
	Lord Steyn of Untchew, 71, former Lord Chancellor, chairman of semi-independent commission on Lords reform. Strategic: respected constitutional expert. Weakness: might be distrusted by Labour.
	Lord Nolan, 70, retired lawyer. Strategic: justly independent. Weakness: might be wary of commissions.
	Lord Goff of Chieveley, 72, retired law Lord. Strategic: could check the whip. Weakness: no political antennae.
	Outsiders Dame Stella Rimington, 64, former head of MI6. Strategic: almost certainly. Weakness: has blood on her coat of arms & Spencer.



Blair to give up power to pick crossbenchers

By Valerie Elliott and James Landale

THE secretive committee that vets new life peers is expected to win powers to nominate crossbenchers under the reforms to the Lords.

The Political Honours scrutiny Committee, chaired by Lord Pym, the former Tory Cabinet minister, at present only checks nominations made by the Prime Minister. But as part of Tony Blair's promise to give up his "sole power of patronage", the committee is expected to be able to nominate some independent peers itself.

The committee is also expected to be given greater powers to vet other honours, although this may only be until ministers decide the make-up of a revamped honours or appointments commission.

The move was promised in Labour's manifesto and many peers thought it would apply to the transitional House of Lords, once hereditary peers

had been expelled. But the new body is likely to be delayed until the second stage of Lords reform.

A new honours commission — designed to end charges of cronyism and "cash for honours" — was suggested by Lord Neill of Bladen, QC, as part of his inquiry into party political funding. But Whitehall officials say that without a new election commission and an open register of political donors, it would be difficult in the short term to check the political links of all people nominated for honours. A political donation would not disbar anyone from receiving an honour but it might affect the timing.

It is envisaged that a new honours commission would work closely with the proposed election commission. But with Mr Blair insisting that he intends to give up some powers of patronage, an interim formula has been devised.

Lord Pym's committee, which includes Baroness Dear of Thornton-le-Pyde for Labour and Lord Thomson of Mafeking for the Liberal Democrats, will as well as vetting crossbenchers, look at knighthoods, dames and possibly nominations for the CBE.

A network of specialist groups — covering the arts, medicine, business, public services and charities — already exists and suggests names to the level of knight. That network could easily be adapted to identify names for crossbench peers.

It is possible that Mr Blair might decide to appoint one or two extra names to the scrutiny committee, perhaps an independent lawyer or academic, or a senior bishop, to add transparency to proceedings. The committee is, however, set up as a sub-committee of the Privy Council and members must be Privy Counsellors.

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Honesty is best policy about reasons for interest rate cut

The further reduction in interest rates yesterday by the Bank of England is mixed news for the Government. The move itself is obviously welcome, but not the reasons for the cut. Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, had a point when he questioned whether the Bank now for growth were "over-optimistic". An increasing gap has opened up between the Treasury's cautious confidence and the increasingly pessimistic mood of industry.

The statement by the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee

leaves no doubt about its belief that the economic outlook had worsened since its earlier half-point cut. Global prospects have weakened, commodity prices have fallen further and economic surveys have continued to indicate a deterioration, despite "tight" conditions in the labour market and "relatively strong" monetary and financial indicators. The committee judged that the risk of deflation had increased so lower interest rates were necessary to ensure that inflation does not undershoot the 2.5 per cent target.

The Bank's language and ac-

tions contrast with Gordon Brown's tone seven weeks ago in his Pre-Budget Statement. He was then forecasting only a mild slowdown to growth of 1 per cent next year followed by a rapid recovery to a 2.5 per cent rate of expansion from 2000. Even then, that was at the upper end of the range of forecasts. Mr Brown presented the picture of a benign downturn which need not affect his public spending plans, the much trumpeted, and exaggerated, £40 billion extra for health and education.

Some of the Prime Minister's advisers were worried then that the

Chancellor had boxed himself in. They feared that he was too anxious to answer Tory charges about a "black hole". Treasury ministers



Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

were yesterday still highlighting evidence in surveys that business remained confident about its own prospects, even though it was more pessimistic about the economy gener-

ally. Most economists have recently downgraded their forecasts to below the Treasury projections, not just for next year but also, crucially, by questioning the speed and scale of the later recovery.

This does not necessarily mean that the economy is heading for a fully-fledged recession — two quarters of declining national output. There is a danger of being too gloomy, as shown by yesterday's typically fatuous comment from John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB union, that the cut was a "pathetic response" and that the Bank was ignoring manufacturing

industry. The Bank may, with hindsight, be criticised for being slow to spot the turn, but this autumn it has reacted quickly and, in the process, left the Treasury behind.

Mr Brown is in danger of looking complacent and he is vulnerable to criticism if the economy worsens and unemployment rises sharply. But the Government is still in a much stronger position than the Tories were in the early 1990s: inflation and interest rates are much lower and the fiscal position is healthier. The potential problems are less next year than in two or

three years when public spending could be rising sharply at the same time as the economy is picking up.

The immediate difficulty is less policy than presentation — though the Blairites should do more to resist measures that raise business costs. There is no reason for the Government to overdo the gloom, or indulge in empty "I share your pain" gestures.

Rather, ministers should follow the lead of the Bank and admit the deterioration in economic conditions. A little candour now might also help the Government retain public support.

Peers' deal 'will bring in PR for Euro elections'

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prospect of proportional representation being used in next summer's European elections improved significantly yesterday after Tory peers agreed a timetable for the Bill introducing the changes.

The Government said the agreement would allow the controversial European Parliamentary Elections Bill to be passed by the end of January, well in time for the June poll. The Bill was reintroduced in the Queen's Speech after being defeated in the House of Lords an unprecedented five times.

Tory and crossbench peers objected to the so-called "closed list" system which restricts the ability of voters to back an individual candidate. The Tories insisted yesterday that they had reached nothing more than the usual gentleman's agreement with Labour over the timing of legislative stages and would continue to oppose the Bill. "There is no deal," a spokesman said.

But privately Tories admitted the measure was likely to go through, but for reasons other than the timetabling

agreement. First, they would find it difficult to persuade enough of their own and crossbench peers to defeat the Bill yet again. Many had felt that even five defeats was a breach of constitutional propriety.

Second, the Government would be able to use the Parliament Act to force the Bill through if the Lords rejected it at any stage. The Bill might not become law in time for June but would come into force in the 2002 elections.

The Government yesterday tried to drive a fresh wedge between Tory peers and MPs by overemphasising the importance of the agreement. Tory peers and MPs are still bruised over William Hague's sacking of Viscount Cranborne, the former Tory leader in the Lords, for secretly cutting a deal with the Government over Lords reform.

The so-called "usual channels" — the whips and officials from all parties — agree similar timetables for most legislation. The agreements are almost always private and the Prime Minister's official

spokesman broke with convention by disclosing that Lord Carter, the Chief Whip in the Lords, had told the Cabinet that he had agreed a timetable with Lord Strathclyde, the Tory leader, for the Bill to pass by the end of January.

A Tory spokesman said the timetabling did not change their position and added: "Any suggestion that there has been a deal is risible." The Bill will go before peers next week.



John Prescott comes face to face with a coral fish at the London Aquarium yesterday where he was making a plea for worldwide efforts to protect fragile marine eco-systems. The Deputy Prime Minister, a keen diver, said tourists who take coral for souvenirs are guilty of "environmental crime"

Tories reorganise their war room

TWO new units are being set up in the Conservative Central Office "war room" in a drive to step up policy development and campaign organisation (Bill Sherman writes). Daniel Finkelstein, director of research, will head a policy unit reporting to William Hague. Andrew Cooper, director of political operations, and Alex Aitken, head of news, will lead a

strategy and campaigns unit, whose work will be based on extensive research. Rick Nye, director of the Social Market Foundation think-tank and a former aide to Lord Owen, will take over from Mr Finkelstein as director of research. Gregor Mackay will remain Mr Hague's press secretary but will also become director of media, heading a new department.

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B52s send warning to Iraq

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A NEW squadron of seven B52 bombers is being sent to the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia after renewed confrontation with Iraq over United Nations weapons inspections.

Although the bombers are replacements for seven B52s that have been on the island since last month, the announcement from Washington was clearly aimed at reminding President Saddam Hussein that the United States is ready for military action.

William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, said Washington was prepared to launch air strikes without warning. But he said that America would wait until Richard Butler, the chairman of the UN Special Commission (Unscoc), had delivered his report on the latest round of arms inspections.

The seven B52s already on Diego Garcia were dispatched from their home base at Barksdale in Louisiana in the confrontation with Baghdad last month when they set off to bomb Iraq. The B52s flew to the Indian Ocean island after the bombing mission was aborted at the last moment by President Clinton.

Their replacements, armed with cruise missiles, are flying

to Diego Garcia from Minot in North Dakota.

Yesterday, a Baath Party official underlined Baghdad's refusal to co-operate with Unscoc's attempts to search the party building in the capital by standing on the steps and warning that any further demands to enter the premises would be rejected.

Madeline Albright, the US Secretary of State, warned Baghdad of the consequences of failing to co-operate fully with the inspectors. A Foreign Office official in London also described the new confrontation as serious. The official said the Government would not hesitate to use force if necessary. "As the Prime Minister has made clear, there will be no warnings."

Mr Butler is to deliver his verdict as early as next Tuesday on whether Iraq's co-operation merits a "comprehensive review" of UN policy that could lead to an easing of sanctions. But with Britain and the US still poised to bomb and Iraq warning that it will reconsider its co-operation with Unscoc in January, a negative conclusion by Mr Butler could plunge the Middle East back into crisis.

Iraq is demanding that the proposed comprehensive review lift sanctions, but Britain and the US will block such a review if Iraq compliance is judged inadequate.



A Baath Party spokesman announces yesterday that UN inspectors have been barred from entering its offices

As well as the blocked inspection at the party office on Wednesday, Mr Butler revealed that Iraq had forced the postponement of a biological weapons inspection on December 4. Later, they offered to provide access to the site "during

working days of the week, except Fridays". Iraqi escorts also "placed unacceptable conditions" on photography of armaments during a chemical weapons monitoring mission on December 5 with the result that no pictures were taken.

Later that day, they tried to prevent videotaping by biological weapons investigators and sought to prevent Iraqi staff answering questions.

Unscoc had already complained of being barred entry on November 26 to a military

base of People's Mujahidin, an opposition group.

Ship searched: The US Navy boarded and searched an Iraqi ship in a "provocative and criminal act", Baghdad said yesterday, claiming the ship was carrying wheat.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Venice barrier plan is rejected

Rome: A project, which has taken 20 years to prepare, to protect Venice with revolutionary anti-flood barriers was rejected by a committee of the Environment Ministry yesterday on the grounds that it would upset the natural balance of the lagoon and was likely to become redundant because of global warming (John Phillips writes).

Maria Rosa Vitadini, president of the Committee for the Evaluation of Environmental Impact, said that the €1.5 billion scheme "does not do what it promises" as far as closing the three entrances to the lagoon from the Adriatic. The barriers would lie flat on the surface but would be raised with compressed air when tides of over 3ft high were forecast.

Safari Britons robbed

Narok, Kenya: British tourists travelling to the popular Masai Mara game reserve in Kenya were attacked and robbed by armed and hooded men. The first attack on four vans, all full of Britons, occurred 75 miles southwest of Nairobi. In the second incident two vans carrying Britons, a Yugoslav and a Portuguese were attacked and robbed. The incidents bring to eight the number of attacks on tourists in and around the reserve this year. (AP)

Rocket secrets leaked

Washington: An American aerospace firm provided China with sensitive information that could be used to build nuclear weapons, according to a classified Pentagon report (Damian Whitworth writes). After the crash of a rocket carrying a satellite built by Hughes Space and Communications, scientists working for the company supplied Beijing with crucial assistance without authorisation. The Chinese Government has accused the US of having a "Cold War mentality".

War criminal jailed

The Hague: Anto Furundzija, 29, a former Bosnian Croat paramilitary commander, was sentenced to 10 years' jail in the first judgment to deal exclusively with rape as a war crime. The International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia convicted him of violating the laws or customs of war after standing by while another paramilitary beat and raped a female detainee near Vitez in 1993. He was found guilty of torture and outrages upon personal dignity. (Reuters)

Mercenaries for peace

Cape Town: South Africa's Executive Outcomes, the mercenary agency turned military consultancy, has announced that it is closing because it wants to support government efforts to promote peace on the continent. "All over Africa, governments are trying their best to secure law and order and we would like to support them now," Nico Palm, the group director, said. (Reuters)

Solzhenitsyn, 80, halts TV anniversary film

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

FORMER dissident Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, who is 80 today, has succeeded in stopping a documentary about his life from being broadcast on Russian television tonight.

The film, made by Olga Fokhina, is said to contain unauthorised footage of Solzhenitsyn's private life.

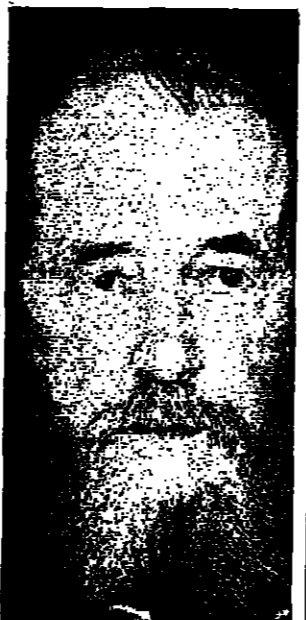
The author and his wife, Natalya, wrote to Mikhail Shvydkoi, head of the television company, explaining that they had given permission for Ms Fokhina to film in their home on the understanding that the material was not for public consumption.

Munira Urazeva, spokes-

woman for the Solzhenitsyns, branded Ms Fokhina "a liar and a woman who breaks her promises", and said the family had never been shown the film, nor had they been invited to the private viewing.

A television company spokesman confirmed that the documentary had been dropped.

It would have been one of three this week to celebrate the birthday of the 1973 Nobel prizewinner who wrote *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* and *The Gulag Archipelago*, an exposé of the horrors of the Soviet labour camps.



Solzhenitsyn: footage not for public consumption

Hostages forced to admit spying

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

A VIDEOTAPE in which the four Western hostages beheaded in Chechnya this week claim to be spies has been discovered by Chechen special services, according to a report by NTV television.

Vakha Arsanov, the Vice-President of Chechnya, is said to have shown the tape to a reporter in Grozny, the capital of the breakaway republic.

The four men — three Britons and a New Zealander — apparently identify themselves as Darren Hickey, Peter Kennedy, Rudolf Petschi and Stanley Shaw. Mr Kennedy says in Russian: "We have been recruited by the English intelligence service. We installed a satellite aerial so that

all telephone conversations on Chechen territory were heard by German, English and Israeli special services and the CIA."

"They must have been forced to confess," Mr Arsanov said.

Sir Andrew Wood, the British Ambassador to Moscow, said: "We don't comment on these things in general. But

any reasonable analysis would show that we have no wish to spy on Chechen territory." Mike Haddock, the embassy press spokesman, added that the embassy had not seen the tape.

The bodies of the men, abducted on October 3 from their flat in Grozny and murdered earlier this week, have not yet been found.

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Vienna's guests offered taste of imperial glory

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN VIENNA

AS THEY wrangle over budgets and employment targets at today's Vienna summit, Europe's leaders may be distracted by ghosts from a grander age of statesmanship.

In glaring contrast to the gritty New Labour backdrop of Tony Blair's Cardiff summit in June, the Austrian Government is drenching the European Union's top team in the imperial glory of the Hofburg Palace — the 2,600-room home to the Habsburg dynasty that dominates the city.

It would be hard to imagine a venue more steeped in past glory than the Redoutensaal, the ceremonial chamber at the heart of the Hofburg, where the EU leaders will gather. The interior has just been refurbished in modern style after a disastrous 1992 fire, but it is the place where, two centuries ago, politicians were entertained by a house orchestra led by Mozart. In 1815, Metetrnich, Talleyrand and Castlereagh spent a year here redrafting the map of Europe, taking a few months out to handle Napoleon's last outing at Waterloo.

Unlike Metetrnich's days, when the negotiators danced the nights away, EU summits are rushed, two-day affairs, burdened with security, motor-



Hofburg: home to the ghosts of a grander era

cade and logistics for thousands of staff and media people. The Austrians are obeying the rules, offering the leaders no opera or dances, but they are determined to make sure no one forgets their great-power past as they host their first summit since joining the EU in 1995.

In the dark days of Advent Vienna reeks more than ever of its imperial past and its turn-of-the-century ferment. Gone is the grime of the more recent past, when the city was a bedraggled postwar frontier with the Soviet bloc and Harry

Lime, of Graham Greene's *The Third Man*, was riding high on the big wheel at the Prater amusement park.

From the brightly lit Christmas markets and their background of carols, to the splendour of St Stephen's Cathedral, the Sacher Hotel and the Café Demel, you are firmly back in the world of Schubert, Klimt and Freud, of waltzes and carriages. Thanks to a frenzy of anniversary merchandising, Habsburg nostalgia is visible everywhere in the figure of the errant Empress Elizabeth, "Sisi", Austria's precursor to Diana. Princess of Wales, was stabbed to death by an Italian anarchist 100 years ago in October.

Below ground, security police are scouring the labyrinth of sewers, the scene of Lime's final chase, ahead of the summit. Up above, however, Vienna exudes a prosperity that speaks for its confidence in the bosom of a Union that is about to take in the former Habsburg lands to the east.

He may be a Socialist, but Viktor Klima, the Chancellor, is out to impress his colleagues — most of them fellow left-wingers — with the full imperial theatre. It must be something about the Austrians. With his dark suits and waist-



Preparations in full swing at the Hofburg as Vienna prepares to receive European leaders. The temporary buildings will house the press

coats, the imposing Chancellor even looks like a figure from another age, matched only by Wolfgang Schüssel, his bow-tied Foreign Minister.

Herr Klima will be choreographing a rare act of EU ceremony when today he leads the statesmen to the Hofburg's Prunksaal where the "honorary citizenship of Europe" is to be conferred on Helmut Kohl, the former German Chancellor and dominant EU figure for the past decade. Herr Kohl

thus will be able to indulge himself with chocolate cake, *apfelstrudel* and *sachertorte*.

Tonight, the scene shifts to another imperial venue, the Belvedere Palace — two baroque mansions that were the summer home of Prince Eugene of Savoy. There the leaders will be given a taste of Viennese cuisine, Austrian wine and the sensuous art of Austria's 19th and 20th-century masters: Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele and Oskar Kokoschka.

EU leaders set for new budget battle

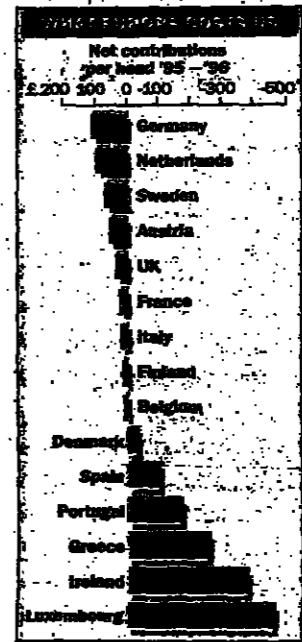
BY CHARLES BREMNER

TONY BLAIR is far from alone in laying down tough national terms at the start of a spending negotiation that will take months to complete. With monetary union due for launch in three weeks, the European Union has set itself a March target for completing the six-year revamp of the EU's €60 billion-a-year spending. Vienna will offer preliminary skirmishes.

Britain's rebate — won after fierce negotiation by Baroness Thatcher in 1984 — is just one element in an intricate cash puzzle that must solve a string of problems, from Germany's excessive budget contribution, to France's demands for continuing high farm spending, and the need to finance the entry of new states from the East.

Making matters more complex, Britain has tangled up with France, Germany and other northern states in a demand to freeze spending. The proposal has enraged Spain and the other southern states, which recognise that it would inflict a cut of billions in the aid they receive from Brussels.

The Vienna gathering will offer a chance for EU leaders to take the measure of Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, at his first EU council. To compensate for no deal on the budget, the leaders will try to produce results



on issues such as the British, French and German drive to save the duty-free industry from abolition, and a Franco-German push for a binding pact on creating EU jobs.

The French, German and other leaders are also certain to air their desires for more harmonised taxes, to promote a "level playing field", especially within "Eurozone", the 11-state single currency zone. The Austrian presidency wants a strong statement on taxes but, along with the French, Herr Schröder and

Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister, has toned down demands for a leap towards a common tax policy and will probably be content with a broad accord on the need to "co-ordinate" policies over certain indirect taxes.

The employment pact scheme reflects the more interventionist and left-wing approach of the big continental powers compared with Britain's desire to see market forces mop up the jobless — more than 10 per cent of the EU workforce.

Britain has backed a voluntary scheme for promoting job creation, but is unlikely to accept a version with binding targets.

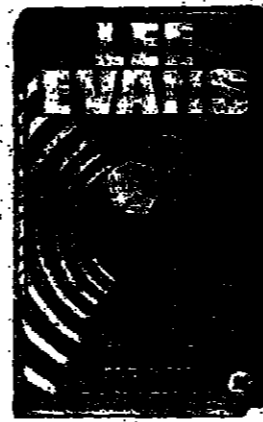
Britain's thinking will be to the fore on defence. As part of his drive to assert a British voice and balance its exclusion from the euro, the Prime Minister has been promoting a scheme to equip the EU with the military muscle to back up its foreign policy.

Most EU officials believe Britain will give ground over the budget because of comparable treatment in a new spending package without a special case stigma.

The biggest problem is satisfying a German demand for a big drop in their €8 billion a year net loss to the EU. Any cut in the German effort means other states paying more.

Leading article, page 25

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Clinton to face unholy mess

MANGER SQUARE in Bethlehem resembled a spin-doctor's nightmare yesterday, with the usual happy groups of pilgrims replaced by teams of sour-faced workers struggling to impose a semblance of normality before the arrival of President Clinton.

The President's advance team were combing the town for seasonal photo opportunities amid anti-US slogans, anti-Israeli riots and a millennium construction programme that has turned the square into a giant building site.

As the American officials drove down Bethlehem Road from Jerusalem to survey the 4th century Church of the Nativity, the first sight they encountered was hundreds of hostile posters depicting the American leader in a checkered keffiyeh under the Hebrew words: "I am a Palestinian."

The photo-montages, an ironic echo of the late President Kennedy's remarks in Berlin, were the work of hardline Jewish settlers bitterly opposed to Mr Clinton's plans to visit the Palestinian self-rule town of Bethlehem next Tuesday, after a similarly symbolic visit to Gaza.

Christopher Walker reports from a cheerless Bethlehem on opposition to the US President's visit

Such is the concern among the Israeli authorities that the Public Works Department rushed to rip down the posters and announced it had set up a team to remove any new ones.

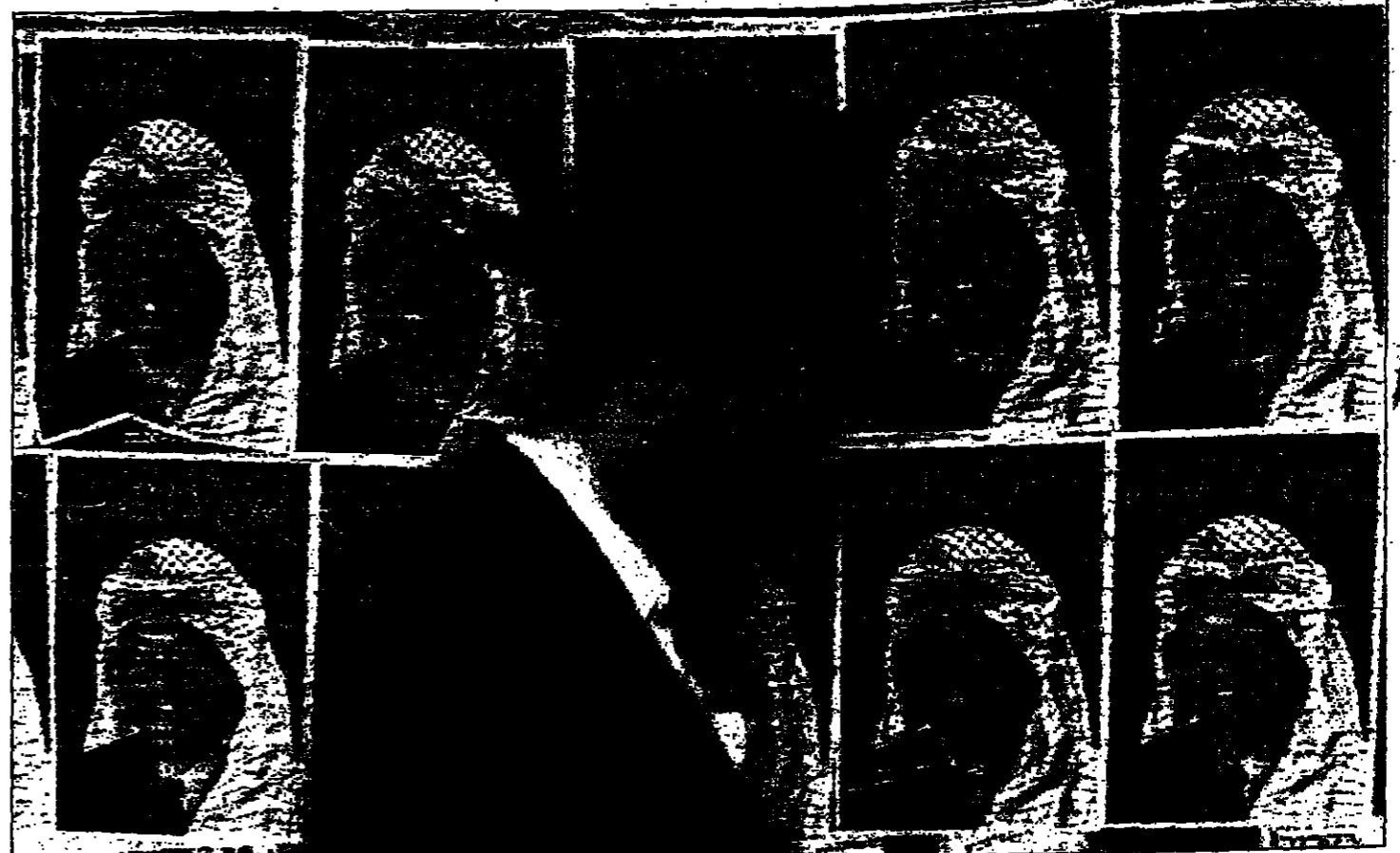
"There are obviously a lot of people who do not want to see Clinton in the Holy Land," said Linda Betsworth, a tourist from Yorkshire, one of only a handful who braved the mud to visit the Bethlehem church near where Mr Clinton is scheduled to illuminate a Christmas tree that has not yet arrived.

Mrs Betsworth, on a trip to celebrate her 30th wedding anniversary, said the main Tel Aviv to Jerusalem highway had been plastered with "Clinton Go Home" signs, also presumed to be the work of

rightwingers who fear his December 12-15 visit will be a major boost to Palestinian claims for statehood.

Opposition to the visit from the other end of the political spectrum was visible only 50 yards from the front of the church built over the birthplace of Jesus, which American officials are hoping to use as the backdrop for pre-Christmas photographs to take the minds of the American people off possible impeachment hearings. There, spray-painted on the walls, was a radical Palestinian slogan "Down with the US" — a reminder that Bethlehem is now a hotbed of Islamic fundamentalism.

Noisy diggers and tractors worked in pouring rain to clear rubble as workmen laid large stone tiles that are to cover the square. Less than half is complete, with the rest an impassable mess of dirt, stones, open trenches, twisted metal rods and piles of gravel, sand and bags of cement. All main access roads are closed for resurfacing and claims by Arab officials that the \$12 million (£7.5 million) project will be completed by Christmas Eve, let alone by Mr Clinton's arrival, are dismissed by Palestini-



An Ultra-Orthodox Jew in Jerusalem passes posters of President Clinton in a keffiyeh condemning his planned visit to self-rule areas

an merchants, watching from their empty stores. A muddy screen of plastic sheeting stands between Angela Giacaman's gift shop and the ruins of Manger Square. Two rickety-wooden ladders are the sole access to the square, where white-

sprayed local twigs are the only obvious Christmas decorations. **□ Arafat's health:** In a rare moment of openness about his health, Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian Authority president, told visitors that he may not live to see the peace

process through. Mr Arafat, 68, who suffers from an uncontrollable trembling of the hands and lower lip, was asked by members of a Washington think-tank how he saw his Authority in 20 years. He answered: "I don't know if I'll live

one year or two." The exchange between Mr Arafat and members of the Washington Institute of Near East Policy was reported by the Israeli daily *Haaretz*. The meeting took place at Arafat's office in the West Bank town of Ramallah. (AP)

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Jerusalem's oldest synagogue found

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI archaeologists claimed yesterday to have uncovered the remains of the oldest synagogue in Jerusalem, within the ruins of a Byzantine-era building discovered years ago.

The two-storey stone structure and courtyard are located inside Jerusalem's walled old city near the southwestern corner of the Temple Mount. Its Byzantine style and an engraving of a cross testify to its origin as a Christian public building.

It was destroyed during the Persian conquest of AD64 but rebuilt after Muslim conquerors seized the city and ruled it from AD638. Artefacts from this period suggest that the Muslim rulers allowed the building to be used as a Jewish house of prayer.

A study by Eilat Mazar, an archaeologist at Hebrew University, states that the structure, known as the "House of Menorah" (seven-branched candelabras) because of the profusion of candelabra paintings inside, was in fact a synagogue from the 7th century AD. Other elements in the building include indentations in the entrances where menorahs — or scrolls containing sections of scripture — would have been attached.

"All of these elements taken together point to the building's use as a house of prayer and study," said Dr Mazar. Her grandfather, Professor Benjamin Mazar, partly excavated the site from 1971-73.

The oldest-known synagogue until now has been the Ramban synagogue in the Jewish quarter of the old city, dating from the 13th century.

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Roman: council "using apartheid-era rules"

Farmer fasts to aid black tenants

By Sam Kiley

A WHITE South African farmer three weeks into a hunger strike to protect his tenants from eviction by a white-dominated council yesterday filed for a Supreme Court injunction to prevent the removals as "an example" to other white farmers.

Roger Roman, 45, who owns 28 acres in the Broedersroom valley, about 20 miles northwest of Johannesburg, has lost 20lb but was "otherwise in perfect health" as a result of his battle with Hartbeespoort local council. It has ordered him to improve the facilities of 11 families on his property, or provide them with alternative land elsewhere. If he fails to do so, the Po-Land tribe members would be evicted.

Mr Roman accused the council of relying on apartheid-era legislation, used by white administrators to enforce racist legislation that drove millions of black South Africans off their land into townships. "The people of this tribe have been here since the early 1800s. Now the council wants to drive them out of the mainly white areas of smart homes. Those days are over."

Mr Roman added that the council had been "spooked" after hearing of his plans to give families title to their plots, qualifying them for a £1,500 government grant for home building and improvements.

"I could not evict these people if I wanted to. Under the 1995 Extension of Security of Tenure Act, they have the right to stay. At no cost to myself I can give them the land and hugely improve their lives," Mr Roman said.

The Act has led many white farmers to evict workers. One result has been a surge in the murder and robbery of farmers, with more than 600 killed in the past two years.

Drivers get fiery hijack deterrent

South Africans are snapping up flamethrowers to stop car attacks, writes Sam Kiley in Johannesburg

A JOHANNESBURG inventor is set to make millions from frightened motorists with a flame-thrower which turns car thieves and assailants to toast at the press of a hidden pedal.

Charles Fourie, a former lawyer, put the "Blaster" on the market two weeks ago. Impressed by the device's ability to send a jet of flame 10ft either side of the front doors of a vehicle, people have been signing up in droves for a £360 fitting.

"By the end of February next year we will have fitted hundreds," said Mr Fourie. "We are getting orders from all over the country, Cape Town, Durban, rural areas, everywhere." Twenty-five have been fitted and hundreds have been ordered.

In the first six months of this year more than 4,000 people lost their cars to armed car-jackers in the Johannesburg region. Many of them also lost their lives to robbers who shoot the driver rather than drag him or her out of the vehicle because so many South Africans cradle a pistol on their knees to fight off criminals.

Now, with the help of liquid petroleum gas, the chances of a car-jacker making off with a vehicle have been considerably reduced, supporters of the invention said.

The system allows the car owner to fire dozens of blasts, depending on the size of the gas bottle stored in the boot. Two small pipes deliver the

gas to a nozzle underneath the car which sends a flame by using a pedal hidden on the floor of the car.

"The driver should raise his hands when he is confronted, and then step on the gas," explained Mr Fourie. He said he saw no necessity for a front nozzle for the system because "you can get a shot in, or run the car-jacker over, if he approaches from the front".

"The point is that they [robbers] like to be able to see what you are doing with your hands. They can only do this when they get close to the driver's window. That's when you get him. He will be badly burned, and probably permanently blinded," added Mr Fourie.

The Blaster is legal in South Africa, according to the police. "Where a person's life is threatened or where property would have been stolen even though life was not threatened, obviously these actions would be justified," said Superintendent David Walkley of the Johannesburg police.

Mr Fourie was stumped when asked how a car thief who simply stole an unattended vehicle armed with a Blaster could be arrested.

"That's obviously a bit of a problem. But like a gun, you cannot be held responsible for its use by irresponsible people," he said.

The Blaster is certain to be a favourite Batman-type device for the rich and famous, and



The flamethrower in action. "The driver should raise his hands when he is confronted and then step on the gas," said Mr Fourie, its inventor

gangsters who fear attack by rivals or, indeed, who fear arrest. Asked if there was a possibility that the Blaster could add a dangerous element of fun for teenage joyriders, Mr Fourie was circumspect.

"The jet only goes 2.5 yards out. They would not be able to do much damage with that," he said.

In South Africa one citizen in 40 will die a violent death as a result of car crashes or

crime. Such statistics have caused a huge growth in the security industry where consultants such as Mr Fourie come up with increasingly bizarre methods of deterrent. One favourite trick to protect cars in

Johannesburg is to leave a box on the back seat marked "live snakes in transit".

Home owners, already caged behind metal bars and linked to armed response teams by panic buttons, are

now advised to adopt a bantam cock, which is a source of "great muti" (magical power), and buy a bull terrier as they have a reputation for latching on to a robber's crutch and never letting go.

'Iran hardliners' killing dissidents

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

A CLIMATE of fear has gripped Iran's intellectuals and academics following the murder and disappearance of several dissident writers and Opposition leaders in recent weeks.

Suspicion has fallen on extremist hardliners determined to put a stop to the more liberal climate fostered by the country's reformist President Khatami, who has championed freedom of speech.

The last to die was Muhammad Mokhtari, who had been involved in attempts to revive Iran's professional association of writers and was an outspoken critic of censorship. His body was returned to relatives on Wednesday, a week after he had gone missing. Marks on his head and neck suggested that he had been murdered, possibly strangled, according to the New York-based Human Rights Watch.

"These killings are part of an increasingly sinister pat-

tern of harassment and persecution of government critics in Iran," a spokesman said.

Another writer, Muhammad Pouyandeh, went missing on Wednesday and human rights activists said his life was in grave danger. A third dissident, Pirouz Davani, has been missing since last August. Last month, a veteran Opposition leader, Dariush Forouhar, and his wife, Parvaneh, were stabbed to death in their home.

"God knows who will be next," said a prominent Iranian publisher in Tehran. There was speculation that the exiled Mujahidin Opposition group may have been behind the killings to discredit Iran, he said.

But the murders are more likely the work of hardliners who have increasingly resorted to violence. Self-styled moral vigilantes have in recent months attacked dissidents, journalists and even reformist Cabinet ministers.

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MAN ON TOP
JOE JOSEPH

Pre-millennial tension? It's kids' stuff

With the well-documented phenomenon of pre-millennial tension already manifesting itself in random and bizarre twists in world affairs — such as Monica Lewinsky's thongs not being mentioned in news bulletins for an entire hour last Tuesday — it is hardly surprising that many of us, too, are suddenly finding ourselves doing things no sane person normally dreams of doing. Obviously I'm talking about our recent decision to hold a birthday party for 15 five-year-olds in our own home without having first sealed all the floors and walls with the same stain-resistant, heat-repelling, waterproof membrane that NASA scientists use to protect space shuttles from the scorching temperatures they experience upon re-entering the Earth's atmosphere. Of course, we would have held the party in an exciting party venue

known on the parent grapevine as "Not at home, no way!". But — it then being October, and the party being planned for December — we'd left it far too late to book anywhere, having failed to realise that organising children's parties has become Britain's third biggest industry after international finance and Carol Vorderman. Feeling trapped, and seeking expert guidance on how to cope with our outbreak of pre-millennial anxiety, I naturally turned to Elaine Showalter, head of Princeton's English Studies department, who has written a whole book on this very subject (not children's birthday parties). In *Sexual Anarchy: Gender and Culture at the Fin de Siècle*, Showalter insists that pre-millennial tension can manifest itself in many ways (without specifically mentioning the phrase "including agreeing to let a young son

host a party at which he will be inviting several **KNOWN CHILDREN** to your house"). At the end of the last century, for example, women's emancipation really rattled men. Men responded by writing male adventure novels, such as H. Rider Haggard's *She*, which, according to Showalter, represents the search for masculine identity. This fin-de-siècle panic also explains why Bram Stoker, in *Dracula*, created a female vampire who "represented the nymphomaniac or oversexed wife who threatened her husband's life with her insatiable erotic demands" (I think they left this bit out when they adapted it for Sunday afternoon television). Her death at the hands of her male victims — who drive a stake through her heart, chop off her head and fill her mouth with garlic — is a scene, says Showalter, whose "sexual implications are em-

barrassingly clear. First there is the gang rape with the impressive phallic instrument... then there is the decapitation," which Showalter sees as controlling the pushy "new woman, by separating her mind from her body". Swiftly alerting my wife to this alarming pre-millennial precedent, I confessed that I was growing anxious about what might happen if, after two hours of being emotionally terrorised by 15 pushy new people, fin-de-siècle anxiety overcame me and I, too, felt impelled to separate their minds from their bodies. My wife calmly insisted that I suppress any such urge, as it was bound to upset at least some of the parents. When the 15 five-year-olds finally turned up, it soon became clear that there are many consolations to giving your house over to young

children. For instance, there's the joy of seeing your child play with his friends, many of whom — and this is one of those heart-warming moments no one prepares you for — appear to be considerably more deranged than he is. You can try engaging them in conversation to distract them from rag-rolling the walls with Nutella, but unlike adults, who have learnt how to feign enjoying talking to strangers at parties, children don't even bother to pretend. When a conversation no longer captivates them, they signal their boredom in a discreet but firm way, by head-butting you in the stomach before running off to fetch fresh Nutella supplies. On the plus side, most five-year-olds — unlike adults — have no exciting views about hereditary peers/Oskar Lafontaine/Carol Vorderman that they wish to share with you. Also children — while

they might do nothing useful all day — never feel the need to pretend that they're actually very busy writing a novel. Best of all, children are young enough for you to feel affection for them: this is because they're still at a stage in life where it's impossible to tell which of them might eventually turn into Noel Edmonds or Demi Moore. But there will always be some children who are so badly behaved that it's hard to know what to make of them, other than 25lb of pâté. You happen to mention this latest, disturbing instance of your pre-millennial delirium to a parent who has just arrived to collect their child. But the parent announces proudly that, although maintaining discipline can be tough, "I never smack my children, do you?", and suddenly you hear yourself answering, "I'm not sure — remind me again which one is yours."



A South American idyll: but as Jessica Davies (right) and her friend enjoyed a protected lifestyle in 1973, Chile was suffering all the cruelties of the Pinochet dictatorship

A childhood under Pinochet

They came to our street one afternoon in September, only days after the coup d'état. I was playing in my bedroom when I heard the shouting and the gunshots, and being both a child and curious, I ran to the window. "Bájate señora en rojo!" ("Get down woman in red") one of the soldiers bellowed: just before I threw myself and my red polo-neck to the floor, I caught sight of my mother, father and sister in the front garden, flat on their bellies, behind our high wall. The year was 1973, the place Santiago, and this was the closest that I — the protected daughter of the then British Council representative — came to Pinochet's organised violence. Across the street, however, a different story was being played out. The occupant, a sculptor called José Soto, was a quiet eccentric in his thirties. He was also my, and my sister's, friend. We would spend hours watching him work, poking around his shambolic house. He even came to dinner with us one evening when our parents were out at a party. Probably we were a bit in love with him. But after that September shoot-out, the sculptures in our friend's empty bungalow were left to gather dust. We learnt later that it was he whom the soldiers had come to find; this mild, kindly, utterly harmless hippy was never seen again. As the debate about Pinochet's extradition has raged on these past weeks, I have thought often of José Soto and wondered what happened to him. As a trustee for Redress, a charity which campaigns for torture victims and which has lobbied for Pinochet's extradition, I can only presume that he was tortured, murdered and then disposed of by the secret police. That is what happened to thousands of Pinochet's victims, the most famous of whom was the folk-singer and songwriter Víctor Jara, whose music manuscripts were magicked out of Chile in the diplomatic bag by my father. And that is why I rejoice that Jack

Jessica Davies recalls the terrible years which convince her the Home Secretary is right

Straw has allowed the former dictator's extradition to Spain. I am no closet Marxist and I recognise that Allende's revolution was an unqualified disaster for Chile; to cite one trivial but telling example, during the three years our family lived under his Government, rocketing inflation saw my pocket money rise from half an escudo (enough to buy some gum and a few stickers for my *This is My Chile* album) to ten thousand escudos.

It is quite possible that Allende's Chile might have become another Cuba. But nothing — not even Pinochet's undisputed turnaround of Chile's wrecked economy — can justify the bloody brutality of the military regime that grabbed power back from the Left. And I deplore the manner in which the arguments in Britain have been so predictably and cynically politicised. Many, myself included, have found the rhetoric of Pinochet's supporters morally repugnant; for, given Pinochet's proven involvement in crimes against humanity, there is surely only one way forward for a civilised society such as ours, and that is to ensure that the 83-year-old is tried so that the fate of the thousands who disappeared might at last be discovered.

It would be better by far for that trial to take place in Chile, but there is not a judge in Chile who would be brave enough to preside over his trial. As a Chilean friend explained yesterday: "Pinochet has too many friends in powerful places. There are violent groups with a lot of money who would make it personally very dangerous for any judge over-

seeing a prosecution." There are two further barriers to a trial in Chile. The first is the 1978 general amnesty. The second is Pinochet's position as a senator for life, which grants him legal immunity. There does exist in Chile a process by which that immunity can be removed, but it requires the unanimous backing of all the judges who sit in the Court of Appeal. As a large proportion of them are Pinochet appointees, the chances of such a course of action being taken are slim.

Our kind, mild harmless friend was never seen again

It has been reported widely, and inaccurately, that most Chileans are outraged by Spain's extradition request. But a MORI poll carried out last week revealed that, in fact, 63 per cent of Chileans believe the general to be guilty of human rights crimes. The truth is that Chile is split on this issue, and, to make matters more complicated, there are many on the Left who want the extradition dropped because they feel humiliated by Spain's interference in their internal affairs.

There are scores more whose opinions have not registered in the debate, because they are too afraid to speak out. They are afraid because their country is what my Chilean friend calls "a fake democracy", with the 48-member Senate top-heavy with Pinochet's former military cronies. In Chile you do not express anti-Pinochet views because, as another Chilean friend explained: "You never know who might be listening." And if you visit the country, as I last did three years ago, you quickly pick up on an underlying tension: behind the prosperous, peaceful façade lurk the ghosts of those

who disappeared in terrifying circumstances, a lost community of men and women whose families have been denied any proper closure to their grief.

The international community has travelled a long way since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 50 years ago. To say that Pinochet cannot be prosecuted in a country other than his own "because that has never happened before" is to ignore the extraordinary momentum of change in international law. Last summer the British Government joined others in ratifying the creation of an International Criminal Court, and, while in Britain we have yet to see prosecutions of foreign nationals accused of human rights crimes, such prosecutions have taken place elsewhere in Europe. Jack Straw's decision is not outrageous: it is entirely in keeping with the times.

What is outrageous is the suggestion by Norman Lamont and others like him, who apparently know very little about Chile at all, that the matter be "laid to rest". It is self-evident that until the past is confronted, Chile will remain locked in her fearful, "fake" democracy, a country divided against herself and haunted by those ghosts who cannot be laid to rest, either figuratively or literally, because their families don't know where their bodies lie, and nobody has publicly apologised for what happened to them.

The Chilean writer Ariel Dorfman, the author of *Death and the Maiden*, has said that the only people who are entitled to offer mercy to Augusto Pinochet are the families of his victims — and that such mercy can only be considered once the general has been tried as he should be, in a court of law. Mr Straw's decision may have been described as the most difficult he has ever faced, but really it could not have been more simple. Augusto Pinochet showed no mercy when he snatched and snuffed out my friend; he should be grateful for any judgment he faces in the coming months is unlikely to be as swift, as painful or as final.

Surviving a wife's success

Contemporary relationships are facing one last taboo, says Ginny Dougary

A few years ago, my husband Bruce announced that he might like to be a small farmer. This mildly horrifying idea came to him at a low point in the never-ending debate that rages in our household: How Can We Get A Life? It is a question that exercises most full-time working people: whatever happened to fun?

The issue was muddled by a number of factors. My husband worked in an office halfway across London; I work from home. He had come to hate his job, while I was enjoying mine. More pertinently, like a fifth of all female partners, I had become the major breadwinner: a scenario which is projected to apply to half of all households by 2020.

In our case, it seemed pointless to have two reasonable incomes when we had no time to spend them. I felt doubly disadvantaged: mine was the more pressurised job and yet, because I was at home, the onus of organising every domestic detail fell on me. He, in turn, was miserable because he never got back in time to see our children.

So what should we do? Small farming was never an entirely serious proposition. Nor was either of us keen on Bruce becoming — the dread phrase — a househusband. The answer for him was a part-time academic job. He would earn less but be able to do more around the house.

This change of status was possible only because Bruce is that rare creature — a man with no hang-ups about who is the breadwinner. It is other people who have a problem with the idea of a man earning less than his partner. I have been asked more than once whether my husband feels emasculated because he helps with the housework.

But the reaction can cut both ways. I am constantly struck (and irritated) by how much Bruce is praised because he is able to cook and to wash up afterwards. It is still considered amazing if the husbands pull their weight at home.

I first became aware that the money and masculinity equation was a taboo subject when a newspaper asked me to examine the dynamics of relationships in which women earn more than their partners. I should have known that this would lead to trouble. I was aware, from second-hand experience, that a man can suffer a crippling erosion of self-esteem when his wife earns more than him.

My initial tactic was to seek out couples who were not part of my immediate circle. No one would talk — indeed, some of them told me my inquiry was offensive. I ended up speaking to people I knew. The women were voluble: the men de-

fensive. So much resentment and anger bubbled under the surface. There was also a sort of wishfulness: a sense of anxiety about being trapped in a situation that neither party felt entirely happy about.

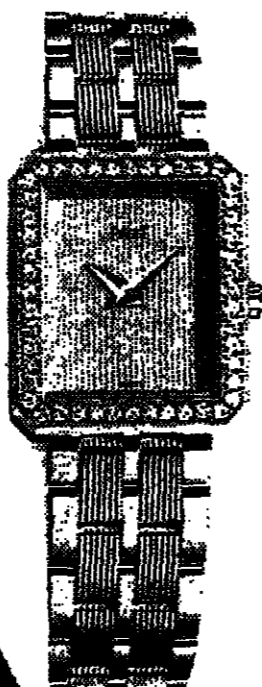
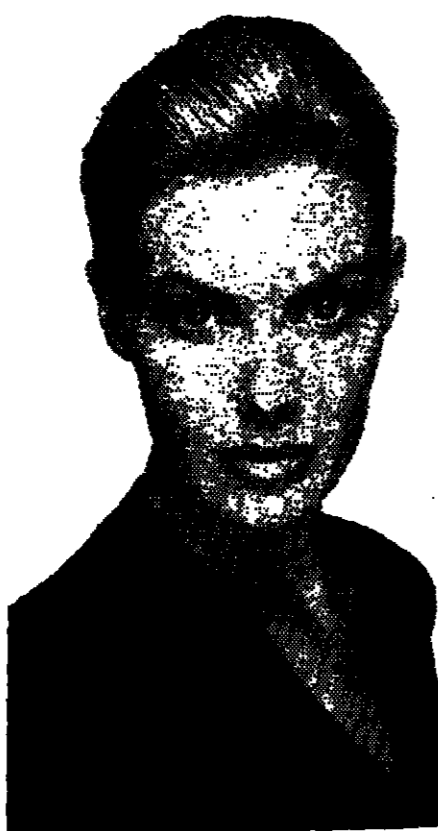
For my part, I must confess, the role swap has not been an unqualified success. My reluctance to acknowledge it suggests that behind one taboo lies another. It's hard for women such as me to examine the downside of being a breadwinner. I certainly don't want to become a little woman at home, but I wouldn't mind becoming littler. For it is coincidence that my girth has expanded with the success — and stress — of my career? I have an image of myself as a colossus supporting our lives, which isn't quite what I bargained for. I sometimes long to become a fibbertight wisp of a girl, with lots of adventures and no responsibilities. So have we merely replaced one straitjacket with another?

Bruce has found the transition tricky. His part-time work is demanding, and he has yet to find his true calling. But we are fortunate, I suppose, in that far from being unable to discuss where we go from here, we talk about it all the time.

The other night, we were having dinner at a friend's house and I mentioned that Bruce and I were trying to work out how he could earn more money to take the pressure off me. "Why's that?" inquired our host. I explained that I wanted a break to pursue a few projects and that I was a bit burnt out from being the chief breadwinner. "Isn't it wonderful," he groused. "Men have had to earn the money for hundreds of years, and yet as soon as women have a go, you throw up your arms in horror and say 'oh, so that's what it's like. You can keep it.'"

A lively discussion ensued, during which it emerged that our friend was desperate to take a break from his desk-bound job but felt, with a new baby, that it simply wasn't possible. The conversation went to and fro and we eventually reached a consensus of sorts. As working patterns become increasingly flexible, we agreed, it should be possible for men and women to take turns to dip in and out of the breadwinner role. Far from feeling disadvantaged by being homeworkers on short-term contracts, we should exploit the changes to liberate us from the old conformities. With that realisation, I glimpsed a chink of optimism for the future. After all, there is no need for any of us to feel trapped; we know it's not for ever. And who knows, we might even be able to have some fun.

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Children and parents usually haven't the faintest idea what they want for Christmas. Ask and you will receive a "dummo" or a sigh

Wish lists made easy

If you thought husbands and lovers were hard to buy Christmas presents for, wait until you start on your parents and children. Men have the virtue of being mildly uninterested in what Father Christmas has brought them. Parents and children are another story. They haven't the faintest idea what they might like. Go on, ask them. I guarantee that your son will either mutter "dummo" or reel off an incomprehensible list of computer technology, none of it available for less than £1,500. Your mother, instead, will heave a sigh that blows all the sparrows off the phone line



down which you are speaking and say: "Well, darling, Daddy and I are getting on, and as you grow older you find you don't want so many things. Family and so on are what really matter. And don't spend your hard-earned pennies on us. We'll be gone soon enough." At this point you put the receiver down very gently,

creep into the conservatory and scream your head off. After years of anguish, I have decided that there is no point in getting all worked up. If they won't give you a wish list, they must take what you offer and be grateful.

Children, at least, have the redeeming feature of turning, at quite an early age, into the Artful Dodger. They want cash. As much as possible. Before that magical age, remember that whatever you get them will become part of your life, too. Do you really want to share your home with a Furby? Thought not. Why not get them some nice, plain architectural bricks (John Lewis is good on these, and though they may sound meanly puritanical, they do go on and on. The fascination of ours has lasted for seven years and shows no sign of fading).

Another huge success in our house has been Ryman's smart wooden case of paints, felt tips, oil pastels and crayons, a bargain at £9.99. For stocking presents Tridias (0870 240 2104) and the Hawkin catalogue (01986 782536) are unbeatable. And I would happily give house room to Volia's sturdy wooden castle, from £99 at Daisy & Tom (0171-352 3000).

Having spent too many childhood Christmases looking on enviously as my sister unwrapped her new Julip pony and tack (01935 414171) while I had nothing but interminable parcels of improving literature, I am rather inclined to leave books for term-time. An indulgent grandpa with a taste for handicraft might have almost as much fun as his granddaughter with the Man-

ners catalogue's Georgian Dolls Town House kit, £95 (0870 6000 662).

If you can't resist books, check before giving a child J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* (a recent birthday brought a haul of four copies.) Just as fascinating are Mary Norton's *Bedknob and Broomstick*, John Ryan's *Captain Pugwash* series, Lucy Boston's *Green Knowe* and Dorothy Edwards's *Naughty Little Sister* series (all Puffin). Older children might try Joan Aiken's haunting *Night Birds on Nantucket* and *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* (Red Fox).

Books may also keep grandparents quiet. Give your father Patrick O'Brian's *The Hundred Days*, (HarperCollins, £12.99) or, if he is prone to moaning about his health, Norman Lewis's collection of travel writing, *The Happy Ant Heap* (Cape, £14.99). Lewis is most likely at least a decade older than your father. Failing that, a subscription to *The Spectator* (01454-620 070) will give him something to fulminate about each week.

If your mother is not a member of the Royal Horticultural Society (0171-621 3000), £38 will make her one: she will then receive the RHS's excellent monthly magazine, *The Garden*. She might also like the General Trading Company's (0171-730 0411) cosy bird cottage, £16.95, or its faux bamboo butler's tray, £350. Your father might like GTC's crystal decanter, £58, and pewter decanting horn, £49, or silver-rimmed horn beakers, £75.

Other gifts to bring a smile to the most difficult parent's face might include Penhaligon's (0171-629 1416) flower scents, prettily packaged in mistletoe-patterned wrapping; bluebell or lily of the valley gift boxes start at £75. If your parents are at the stage at which your father lives in the shed and your mother in the kitchen and they communicate mainly by notes, the Manners catalogue Bookshelf pinboard might be the very thing, covered in fabric printed with antique volumes and crisscrossed with Petersham ribbon. For £30, they need never speak again. Did someone say Bah! Humbug?

Objects of desire

■ The best way to dress up last year's party frock is by adding new accessories. Johnny loves Rosie has a huge range of Art Deco-inspired jewelled hair grips in brushed silver with pearl, red, amber or blue stones. Prices start at £9.95 (0171-375 3574).

■ Or opt for an embroidered evening bag. Megan Park's have intricate detailing and beadwork but they are never overpowering. £50 at Harvey Nichols (0171-584 0011).



SIX OF THE BEST

Shed light on the Christmas table

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BABE
PIC IN THE CITY

He's back! In cinemas everywhere

Turn against the peers, William

Treat the toffs like the unions, suggests Mary Ann Sieghart

When William Hague studied PPE at Oxford, he must somehow have skipped the papers on political history. What else could explain his surprise at Viscount Cranborne's disloyalty? History would surely have taught him that Conservative peers, when faced with the choice between being Conservative and being peers, are bound to opt for the latter. They always have.

Even the 3rd Marquess of Salisbury, Conservative Prime Minister at the end of the last century, once said that, if the Conservative Party ceased to believe in the things he believed in, he would walk down the steps of the Carlton Club and never look back. His great-grandson, the current Lord Cranborne, was frank enough to admit last week that, in a conflict of loyalty between the Tory party and the Lords, he had no regrets in choosing the Lords. These men were following not just a family tradition, but the rules of their caste.

In the early days of the aristocracy, life was easy. The barons had absolute power in their own territories, eventually constrained only by Magna Carta. Later, they held on to their power by virtue of being close to the monarch at court. When the irritants of political parties sprang up, noblemen realised that these too could be exploited to protect their interests.

Aristocrats will always protect their own caste

For two centuries, aristocrats controlled both the Whig and Tory parties, in the Commons as well as the Lords. It was not until the 1885 general election that the titled and landed classes became a minority in the Commons. By running both parties, they reckoned to protect the interests of the aristocracy against the twin threats of mass democracy and revolution.

Even the Great Reform Act of 1832 was not entirely altruistic. In an inversion of the deal currently on offer to the hereditary peers, the aristocratic Whigs calculated that giving away about 10 per cent of their power would enable them to hold on to the remaining 90 per cent.

The first great aristocratic betrayal of a party came in the 1830s, when those families who had supported the Whigs for 200 years found that Gladstone's Home Rule proposals for Ireland posed too much of a threat to their estates. One by one the dukes peeled off — Devonshire, Westminster, Bedford, Sutherland and many more. As the historical David Cannadine, in his *Decline and Fall of the British Aristocracy*, put it: "When forced to choose between their Liberalism and their landlordism, the majority of Whigs plainly opted for the second alternative."

They were also alarmed by how liberal the Liberal Party had become, particularly the faction led by Chamberlain. By 1880, the Duke of Somerset was convinced that Chamberlain and his followers intended to "pull down the pinnacles

of Bureleigh and the oriels of Longleat for the purposes of planting cabbage patches" — a reference to the monstrously revolutionary policy of encouraging allotments.

The aristocracy eventually moved, almost to a duke, to the Conservative Party, making the fatal mistake of leaving the other side unguarded and uncontrolled. So Lloyd George was able to attack lords and landlords, to introduce a People's Budget (like Gordon Brown) and to pass the Parliament Act, curtailing the powers of the peers.

It was within that context that, just as now, many peers became supporters of a reformed House, with a much-reduced hereditary component and a large elected element. Sounds familiar? So does Lord Rosebery's reasoning in 1910: "The alternative is to cling with enfeebled grasp to privileges which have become unpopular, to powers which are verging on the obsolete." The Lords knew, as they do now, that their only hope of holding on to a vestige of power was to yield to reform. Why has the British aristocracy survived better

than its counterparts in France, Germany or Italy? Because it has always known when to capitulate.

None of this behaviour is particularly unreasonable once you understand that, in a lord's mind, loyalty to party can never override loyalty to himself and to his peers. But it does

explain why it was a mistake for anyone to have conflated the interests of the hereditary peers with the interests of the Conservatives. And it also explains Mr Hague with an unexpected opportunity to reshape his party.

As Tony Blair has proved, a leader who wants to modernise needs to show voters not just what his new party is, but also what it is not. The best way is to define the modern party against the old. In Mr Blair's case, the unattractive past was old Labour and the unions. For Mr Hague, it should be hereditary peers.

If the Tory leader wants "new" Conservatism to be seen as caring, inclusive, and democratic, what better contrast than to hold it up against the selfish, socially exclusive and unselected hereditaries? It might be unfair, since many hereditary peers are honourable and unobnoxious. But their leader, Lord Cranborne, has been duplicitous in trying to protect their vested interests. He has admitted as much.

So Mr Hague can now turn adversity to advantage. Far from supporting the hereditary principle, he should be lambasting the peers at every opportunity. He should outflank Mr Blair's timid proposals for the second chamber.

And he should now position the Conservatives not as the old party of toffs, nor the new (Labour) party of metropolitan chatterbox, but as the classless contemporary Tory party of Yorkshire common sense.



Peter Brooks 11 xii 98

Hanging on the judges

Opinionated as I am, the Pinochet case leaves me confused. So I have deferred to expert judgment

Simon Jenkins

I have a problem. I agree with everything I read on General Pinochet's extradition. I find the prosecution case high-minded and convincing. The general must be judged for his crimes. I find the defence case also high-minded and convincing. He is Chilean and Chile, a democracy, should judge as it chooses.

At vast expense, I have taken this suit of Jenkins v Jenkins to my own virtual House of Lords for judgment. The five sat all night to give their ruling. Here it is.

Lord Impeccable: I must declare an interest. I am a friend of Baroness Thatcher and have always regarded General Pinochet as a fine and well-dressed upholder of law and order. This in no way clouds my judgment. He should be released. Everyone knows that extradition law is a political dog's dinner. Spain's demand for extradition comes from a country that offers refuge to any and every gangster and drug-dealer. France, which has also applied for extradition, gives shopping space to half the world's dictators.

This is not a judicial but a political row, immersed in Spanish politics. I do not question that the general ordered the killing of political opponents. He saw his country at civil war. But if crimes were committed in that war, they were committed in Chile, not in Spain or Britain. If foreigners were involved, that was their risk, like those who fought in Spain's own civil war. General Pinochet is a free citizen of Chile. Its Government has formally requested his release. I agree.

Lord Strawless: I must declare an interest. I was secretary of the Oxford University Avengé Alliance Society. This in no way clouds my judgment. General Pinochet should be put on trial for torture and murder. He is an odious man guilty of crimes against Spanish citizens and against humanity. These crimes fall clearly within the terms of the Extradition Act of 1989 and the numerous Conventions on Human Rights. Spain is seeking justice on behalf of itself, Chile and the world. The British Government has no right to impede that search. It would not tolerate Russia harbouring the killers of Britons in Chechnya.

We purport to uphold the international rule of law. In my view

General Pinochet always took a calculated risk, that his past would never catch up with him. That might apply within Chile, but he was foolish to think he could travel abroad with impunity. The British Government may have seemed to offer him security but total sanctuary was never in his gift. The general was vulnerable to any extradition treaty invoked by a country whose nationals he had killed.

Lord Valparaiso: I must declare an interest. My wife is a Chilean national and secretary of the Free Pinochet movement. This in no way clouds my judgment. The general should go free. I regard Lord Strawless's argument as licensed kidnapping. The human rights condottieri cannot overturn the conventions governing sovereign immunity, which are rooted in the inviolability of states and their envoys. World leaders, however odious their present or past, must be able to travel without risk of arrest by third parties. Nor can they be accountable to the world for every action of their subordinates.

General Pinochet is still a political force in Chile. He is party to a political settlement that restored democracy after 17 years of dictatorship. The British Government has no de facto right to revise this settlement. Chileans are divided equally for and against the general, but the majority are strongly for his return. They feel politically abused and degraded and rightly so. Suppose Spain demanded the extradition of Gerry Adams because the IRA had killed a Spanish citizen ten years ago? Jack Straw would say, get lost. I am for release.

Lord Pangloss: I must declare an interest. I am fundraiser for Amnesty For Everyone But Pinochet. This in no way clouds my judgment. I am for extradition. Human rights law is

now steadily reaching across national boundaries and not a moment too soon. This heralds the dawn of international criminal law. I believe that our profession, that of law, will succeed to a measure of world government where soldiers, diplomats and the United Nations have failed. International law will put fear into the calculation of every tyrant, that sooner or later he will be hounded down and tried.

Unlike Lord Strawless, I am not saying that General Pinochet is guilty of crimes against humanity. I am only agreeing with the Home Secretary that he has a case to answer. Chile cannot demand immunity from action against its leaders overseas. It harbours the murderers of foreign nationals and refuses to bring those responsible to justice. Unlike Argentina, this fledgling democracy has chosen amnesty. For those guilty of terrible crimes, Chile can decide its own settlement. It cannot expect the rest of the world to share its latitude when its leaders travel abroad, I say, extradite.

(The score is two-all. The House trembles with anticipation. How will the fifth lord, Lord Inbetween, decide?)

Lord Inbetween: I feel helpless. I have no interest to declare. Chile is a distant land of which I know little. I am sorry Jenkins v Jenkins has come to this costly pass, but what happens to ageing dictators as they stagger from Harrods to Hill Street is of no concern to me. Still, I have been asked a question.

The issue set out by my colleagues is this. What is the right balance between the so-called sovereignty of states and the new world order seen in General Pinochet's arrest: the first glimmerings of international law enforcement. It dreams of United Nations troops scouring the globe,

rooting out "criminals against humanity" and handing them before a supranational court. "Nations states" will have no say in the matter. There must be no hiding place for mass murderers.

I sympathise with this goal. Pinochet was born under the sign of the UN dove and worshipped by the shrines of world government. Perhaps one day it will come to pass. It has not done so yet. The objective of the Pinochet case is the show trial of a foreign leader before a Spanish court and against the express wishes of his own democratic Government. Spain is not just prosecuting an alleged murderer of Spanish citizens. It intends to prosecute a man still potent in a foreign state for crimes committed in that state. This is a judicial version of the American intervention that toppled General Pinochet's predecessor, Allende, from power. I am not clear if Spain means to do this to every foreign dictator who passes through Europe. She plainly intends to remove from Chile's discretion the path to reconciliation mapped out ten years ago.

No treaty has been agreed setting up an international criminal court. America has refused to accept such a surrender of sovereignty, understandably in view of recent bombing escapades. The concept of crimes against humanity is developing as a lever in policing current conflicts, such as in former Yugoslavia and Iraq. But the concept is in infancy, and is being applied with haphazard partiality. Such enforcement as exists is more political opportunism than law and order.

At present I see an unattractive wolf hiding in the sheep's clothing of this new interventionism: the moral imperialism of the strong and the rich over the weak and the poor. It is the new white man's burden, ethically laundered by the United Nations and non-government organisations. It claims the right to treat less mature politics as Kipling's "new-caught, sullen peoples/ Half-devil and half-child." Britain now imposes economic sanctions exclusively on poor nations. The boundary between moral and immoral imperialism is ever narrower.

I have no time for General Pinochet or his vile regime. But his country is Chile, his alleged crimes were Chilean and to Chile I would return him, for good. I vote for release.

Philip Howard



A bet on the bat was always a sure-fire outcome

Betting and bribery are English sports even older than cricket. As the avalanche of money thrown away at the National Lottery twice a week shows, the chance of winning loads of money for jam is the ruling English obsession. When nocturnal Test match commentary returned last night from Adelaide as the sovereign sports for insomniacs, the Australian cricketers "disgraced" for accepting money from an Indian bookmaker can console themselves that they were living up to the oldest tradition of cricket.

What they did was deplorable, no doubt, but it lived up to the spirit of the game. When George Bernard Shaw, on an occasion unthinkable today, was told that England had been successful in the Australian Tests, he inquired what they had been testing. Shaw was an Irish troublemaker. But his question was not daft. The players had certainly been testing the Australian bookies as well as their cricketers.

The origins of the game whose vocabulary and tedium make Americans giggle are, of course, lost in the mists of anecdote. The etymology of its name could come from the Old French *cricque* (a kind of club, perhaps used in a ball game), or from the Flemish *Krick* (a stick), or from the Old English *cricca* (a crab or staff). Although it has spread around the world more widely than baseball, some races have always found it peculiar. The first record of a game played outside England comes from the logbook of *HMS Assistance*, part of the English Fleet on the Levantine coast. This records that on May 6, 1676, some of her crew played cricket at Antioch. It may have been watching this game that provoked the Turkish potentate Abdul Aziz, known also as Abdul the Damned, to exclaim: "Remarkable! But what needless exertion! Why do you not compel your slaves and concubines to perform it for you?"

But there is no controversy about the antique connection of cricket with gambling and match-fixing. Heavy side-betting was much like the modern spread-betting, practised by City wideboys, for example, the time at which the first wicket will fall. This encouraged the "legs", unscrupulous bookmakers who fixed matches, and the star of the cricketing gamble was the Rev Lord Frederick Beauclerk, DD, Vicar of St Albans (1773-1850). He was the great-grandson of Charles II and Nell Gwynne, and known in Soho as Fred Diamond Eye.

This choleric vicar took his guild at the wicket wearing a scarlet sash and a white beaver hat, and showed his contempt for some bowlers by suspending a gold watch from his middle stump as a tatum. Sledging the opposition is as much part of the noble traditions of cricket as betting. Beauclerk was a good cricketer, who admitted to making £600 a year (100 times that in modern pounds) as a cricketeer. It is very likely (though unprovable in court at this distance in time) that he owed some of his financial success to backing his opponents in matches in which he played himself. Contemporaries who observed him in the pulpit reported that he was as buoyantly dull a preacher as Boycott was an opening batsman.

So as Henry Blofeld and the other commentators twitter on about the Adelaide gulls and the tumbling English wickets tonight, we can turn over and dream about the shady heroes of the sacramental game such as Dr George Heath, (also, *nota bene*, DD), the Head Master of Eton. He was the cricketing perfectionist who flogged the School XI, including (perhaps unjustly) the scorer, when they returned from a defeat by Westminster School on July 25, 1796. Or take Julius Caesar, *natus* Godalming circa MCCCXXX, the slow bowler who, on overseas tours, wept if required to sleep alone. He later became the coach of Uppingham, and of Hesketh K. Naylor, fl. 1851, a rare American cricketer fan. He was an important New York millionaire who derived sexual gratification by maintaining an establishment of fat women to play cricket before him with balloons and without clothes. For cricket is not really a game at all. It is the most complex of rituals and perfect sleeping draught. It tests character in all its googlies and swerves.

JASPER GERARD

All tied up

PAUL MERTON is in trouble. The comedian (below left) has worn the Garrick Club's salmon pink and cucumber green tie on *Have I Got News for You* even though he has yet to gain the approval of the membership committee. The club, which spurned Jeremy Paxman (right) has been inundated with complaints from members. "It shows his mentality," says Martin Harvey, club secretary. "The club tie is like a regimental tie. If Mr Merton ever applied, his application would not be viewed that well." Lord Lamont of Lerwick, one of the club's jollier members who has suffered from Merton's wit, is less harsh: "It is quite miserable, but it will look magnificent on him." Lord Howe of Aberavon, another Garrick old-timer, asks: "Who's Paul Merton?"

Merton tells me he has received no complaint about wearing it, but that was because he does not move in Cumberland circles. "I wore an Old Etonian tie on screen and nobody made a comment," he tells me. "So I thought I would wear a Garrick one and that seems to have hit the mark. I don't wish to join any club because I like women."

● YOKO ONO gave a piano recital in the City yesterday. The young pianist, who enjoys the pleasure of sharing Ms Lennon's name, played for the boys in chalk stripes at St Olave's — resting place of Samuel Pepys. Says John



loyalty is touching — his daughter Sarah designed a Treasury card.

● PRUE LEITH on the recipe for love. Ms Leith, toiling on an erotic novel about the restaurant world, says she dipped into her well of experience. "After I'd done the first bonking chapter I was very pleased. But then everybody likes writing about sex because it is what they like themselves."

● BORING man, dreadful wife: Harold Pinter. Crowding about

● FAIR COP HUGGY BEAR in the High Court. The proprietors of Starsky and Hutch, a London nightclub where patrons dress in Seventies "threads" worn by the TV duo, are being sued for copyright.

Hollywood bemoans Columbia Pictures wants to crush the club after deciding to revive *Starsky*

and Hutch in filmic form. British punters will apparently confuse clubbing with watching a film.

Club promoter Andy Georgiou says he will prevail in a shootout: "Columbia has made a cock-up by letting the trademark lapse. It is trying to bully me, but I know I am in the right." He plans to do Starsky and Hutch to court and can count on support from Mr Bear, alias Antonio Fargas, the cool sidekick, who drops by when in town. Their arrival in Andy's red Ford Torino — the TV duo's wheels — should ruffle wigs.

General Pinochet, he spits: "If you see Baroness Thatcher, don't give her my regards." The wit...

● HARP practice COOL Cymru reigns in the Valleys. Catalonia, the Welsh pop group of the charming Cerys Matthews (right), have hired the wife of Plaid Cymru's leader to give its next offering a nationalist tilt.

Elinor Wigley, spouse of Dafydd, plucks the harp while Cerys croons. "It's a meditative, atmospheric piece about bulimia and I improvise a harp solo," enthuses Elinor. Group members are family friends: "My sister taught Cerys Welsh singing. They are amazed that I'm on their record." Cerys is a vocal supporter of devolution but Elinor can't recommend politics: "Stick to music."

● TUCKING in THE lobbyist, Lord Bell, is attempting to renew a contract to promote British beef, having snapped up Jack Cunningham's chief aide.

Cathy McGlynn worked for the former Agriculture Secretary for six years before joining Bell Pottinger Communications. The firm is trying to extend its work with the Meat and Livestock Commission,

which is funded by cow producers to bang the drum for farmers. Bell Pottinger has been advising the commission on "crisis management." Should the lobbyists succeed, they say McGlynn could be working with the commission. "We and the commission have behaved properly," Bell assures me.



● FRANK BRUNO in sentimental mood: "I still go to the gym. I miss getting punched in the head." Clever chops, boxers.

● COWLING, the cheerful rector: "They all come along thinking it is the other Yoko. They have to stay."

● PERFECT picture CHARLIE WHELAN has added insult to injury, pouring scorn on No 10's much derided Christmas card. The Chancellor's press attaché concludes that No 10's depiction of a dining table laid for Nelson Mandela is "a load of old s#@t: ours is much better". Whelan's



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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 10: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh today visited North Yorkshire and were received at Harrogate Station by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire (Sir Marcus Worsley) and the High Sheriff (The Lady Clarissa Collin).

ed a reception to mark the centenary of the National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection at The Banqueting House, Whitehall. His Royal Highness, President, The Prince's Trust, this evening attended the film premiere of 'The Mask of Zorro' at The Odeon, Leicester Square.

Dinners

Australia & New Zealand Chamber of Commerce The Princess Royal, Patron of the Cranfield Trust, accompanied by Commodore Timothy Laurence, was the guest of honour at a charity Christmas dinner of the Australia & New Zealand Chamber of Commerce UK held last night at Australia House in aid of the Cranfield Trust.



The actress June Whitfield, 73, who was appointed CBE for services to comedy by the Prince of Wales at an investiture at Buckingham Palace yesterday

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.R. Achesson-Gray and Miss G.L. Clarke. The engagement is announced between George Valdemar, eldest son of Mr and Mrs George O. Archer, of Hong Kong, and Gail Lynde, only child of Mr and Mrs Gwyneth Morris, of Farnborough, Hampshire.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Princess Royal attended a commemorative service in Westminster Abbey yesterday to mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Marriage

Mr T.J.H. West and Miss A.K. Trehowan. The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Henley-on-Thames.

Memorial service

Lord Smith A service in memory of Lord Smith, surgeon, was held yesterday at St Clements, Strand.

Supper

Royal Shakespeare Company The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress attended a supper reception last night at the Lyric Theatre and attended a performance of 'The Merchant of Venice' to mark the close relationship between the Corporation of London and the Barbican Theatre.

Royal engagements

The Duke of York will attend the launch of Trevor Jones' 'Invention — the Next Challenge' at Cotton's Wharf, London SE10 at noon.

School news

Old Malthouse School, Dorset The biography of Jack Inge by Michael Shephard is now published. Apply to John Inge: 01672 810242, fax 811371.

Birthdays today

Brigadier R.W. Acworth, registrar. St Paul's Cathedral, 60 Admiral of the Fleet Sir Edward Ashmore, 79.

Meeting

Fontmell Group Mr Hugh Harring was in the chair at a meeting of the Fontmell Group on Dissolver Relief held yesterday at Church House, Lord Kingsland, QC.

Reception

British Safety Council Sir Neville Purvis, Director-General of the British Safety Council, was the host at a reception held yesterday at Watermen's Hall for the council's International Diploma in Safety Management and Five Star Health and Safety Management System Audit awards.

Appointments

English-Speaking Union Mr John Armitage, Lord Hunt of Wirral, Professor Maxwell Irvine, Mrs Mary Atwood, and Mrs Professor E.W. Nicholson, FBA, have been elected governors of the English-Speaking Union.

Church news

The Rev Michael Johnson, Team Vicar, Jarrov with responsibility for St John the Baptist, Monkton and Primrose Hospitals (Durham), to be Vicar, Burginwallis and Camp-sall (Sheffield).

Luncheons

American Chamber of Commerce (UK) The American Ambassador was the principal guest at the Christmas luncheon of the American Chamber of Commerce (UK) held yesterday at the London Hilton on Park Lane.

Service dinner

Empire Test Pilot's School The Empire Test Pilot's School held its McKenna Graduation Dinner last night in the Officers' Mess at RAF Boscombe Down.

Leicester University

Professor A. Rendell has been appointed to the Chair of Quality and Reliability Management at Leicester University.

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BIRTHS On December 6th 1998 to Julia (nee) Partington and Alex, a son Alfred Christopher.

DEATHS ADAMS-THORNTON - Pat, formerly Cole (nee Hoey), loved wife of Michael, died of cancer at 81 on 8th December.

GOFFREY - Cissie (nee Cranford) formerly of Rutland Gate, London and 'Bridle Park' Motel, Aswellby, died at 93 on 9th December.

MILLER - George Stanley, beloved husband of Chris, father of Nicola, Peter and Christopher, died at 78 on 9th December.

MEMORIAL SERVICES, TICKETS FOR SALE, FOR SALE, WANTED, OVERSEAS TRAVEL, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

OBITUARIES

ARCHIE MOORE

Joe Louis

Archie Moore, world light-heavyweight boxing champion, 1952-67, died in San Diego, California, on December 9 aged 84. He was born in Benoit, Mississippi, on December 13, 1913.



Blood, toil, tears and sweat: Moore aims a right at Giulio Rinaldi on his way to a points victory over the Italian challenger in 1961

The Grand Old Man of boxing, and one of the most comprehensively equipped practitioners of the art to grace the ring in his day, Archie Moore came late to top honours. But he won the hearts of the boxing public by his supreme talents which included exceptional ringcraft, durability, a hard punch in both hands and, above all, the great guile with which he loved to box opponents. In an era which saw many great champions, no boxer was regarded with greater affection than Moore.

This had something to do with the age at which he was still defending a world crown from much younger men who wanted to tear it from his head. By the time he gave up boxing, Moore's appearance — grizzled, paunchy, with an almost audible creak in the legs — suggested not merely middle age, but venerability. And the cheek with which he defied opponents whose youthful ruckus always threatened to promise a thrashing for the old maestro never failed to keep audiences on the edge of their seats.

Moore had a long reign as world light-heavyweight champion and his ten-year tenure of the crown included many defences against challengers who were of a quality which is not often seen in this age of proliferation of titles and dilution of the quality of contenders at each weight. Indeed, he never lost his crown in the ring. He was stripped of it by the National Boxing Association for "inactivity" — extraordinary though that may seem, given his busy career which included 228 bouts. Then, when the New York and European bodies also ranged themselves against him, he

decided to retire from the ring. This wise decision was, perhaps, prompted by a comprehensive defeat he had sustained at heavy-weight, at the hands of the emerging Cassius Clay (as Muhammad Ali then was) which proved that at last the "old professor" had to acknowledge the march of years. He was, at the time, officially 43, though most commentators regarded

him as being "forty-three going on fifty". But Moore had never been a man to duck an opponent, and, though a natural light-heavyweight, had several forays among the heavies. For example, at a time when most heavyweights preferred to keep out of the ring with the ferociously destructive Rocky Marciano, Moore, as a light-heavy,

went to considerable lengths to get a crack at his world heavyweight title. He secured the dubious pleasure of going in against "The Rock" only in September 1955, after writing to every sports editor in the United States, putting his case as a challenger. In the event he floored the Rock with a sneaky punch early in the bout, before being ground down over nine torrid rounds.

Born Archibald Lee Wright, Moore began his amateur boxing career at welterweight. In 1936, his first year as a professional, he fought an astonishing 22 bouts, winning 16 of them by knockouts. As the years went by he graduated through the middleweights to light-heavyweight. By the time he squared up to Joey Maxim, conqueror of Sugar Ray

Robinson, for the world light-heavyweight title in New York on December 17, 1952, he admitted to being 36 (though he had, in fact, just entered his fortieth year). Maxim was nine years younger and had gained his ring surname from the fact that his left-hand lead had frequently been likened to the rapid-firing Maxim Gun. This was not to be one of Moore's knockouts, but over 15 rounds his tough young opponent found that his left was simply no match for the sheer variety of punches Moore could bring into action: a jab like that of Joe Louis, a hook reminiscent of Dempsey's and an uppercut which recalled Jack Johnson.

Nothing was made easy for Moore. After beating Maxim for the title he had to make two defences against the same man within a year before being allowed to consider other challenges. From then on he defended against the best in the division — and challenged in the one above. After Marciano's retirement from the ring, Moore soon had the new heavyweight champion, Floyd Patterson, in his sights, and secured a second shot at the heavyweight title in November 1956. In the event Moore appeared below his best and was knocked out by Patterson in five rounds.

At light-heavyweight, Moore always rated his own best performance as his title defence against Harold Johnson in August 1954. Johnson, much younger and stronger, was confidently expected to end the ageing Moore's reign. But it was not to be. The champion's durability was as remarkable as his ring skills, and in 14 tough rounds he finally disposed of Johnson's challenge, dumping the challenger on the canvas. Johnson later acquired the title, but only after Moore had retired. Two subsequent title defences against the rugged New Brunswick fisherman, Yvonne Durelle, in 1958 and 1959, provided equal thrills. In the first Moore was floored in the first

and fifth rounds, but came back, knocking his man out. In the second Durelle lasted no more than three rounds.

Moore's career was by now not far from its close. His last title defence was against Italy's Giulio Rinaldi in 1961. By this time the title was already being carved up by the claimants of different boxing bodies, and the squabbles were beginning to sour the whole business for Moore. But it was a measure of his drawing power, as well as that of the young Cassius Clay, that the non-title bout between them, in 1962, should have been seen on television all over the United States.

But it really was time for the old professor to go. Once in the ring, Moore was totally overwhelmed by the phenomenal combination punching of an opponent who was thirty years younger than he was, and the referee stepped in during the fourth round to end the fight and one of the ring's most distinguished careers. But, unlike so many of his trade, Moore was able to exit with dignity and enjoy the rewards his skills had garnered him.

In retirement from the ring Moore worked on anti-drug abuse programmes with ghetto youths in San Diego where he settled down with his wife and their large family in a sprawling frame house. He also liked to indulge his flair for acting, and played Jim in the 1960 MGM remake of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. In a much smaller part, he played a chef in the Western murder mystery *Breakheart Pass* (1975). He was much in demand for poetry readings on college campuses, too. He particularly liked giving Shakespeare's speeches and his delivery of Hamlet's soliloquy "To be or not to be" was a great favourite with audiences.

He is survived by his wife Joan, three daughters and four sons.

SIR DAVID WOODBINE PARISH

Sir David Woodbine Parish, CBE, master builder and vice-president for life of City & Guilds, died on November 12 aged 87. He was born on June 28, 1911.



Woodbine Parish helped charities with his City acumen

AN UNUSUAL and outstanding man, David Woodbine Parish contributed to more than one sector of national life through his wholehearted support and commitment to a wide variety of organisations.

David Elmer Woodbine Parish was born in London, the only son of Walter Woodbine Parish, chairman of various South American companies engaged in farming and utilities. His illustrious ancestor, Sir Woodbine Parish, was a diplomat and scientist who claimed sovereignty over the Falkland Islands for Britain. Educated at Sandroyd, Eton (where he was a chorister) and Lausanne, the young Woodbine Parish underwent a two-year period of industrial training in textile and related engineering with Matheson & Platt. He was then articled to Holliday and Greenwood (London master builders) and a successful career was launched. He went on to become managing director and chairman of Holliday and Greenwood from 1953 to 1959, and was appointed chairman of Bovis in 1959 — a position held until 1966. He was appointed CBE in 1964.

Having retired from Bovis, he was able to place his knowledge of the construction industry and his well-honed management skills at the service of education. One

organisation that owes a debt to his memory is the City & Guilds of London Institute. Sir David — as he became in 1980 — had this year just completed 45 years' association with the institute, first joining as a councillor in 1953 after being appointed by the Clothworkers' Company to be its representative. Almost immediately he was able to find and build a new home for City & Guilds after its lease of two rooms at Gresham College was due to expire in 1958. As chairman of Holliday and Greenwood and as joint honorary secretary of City & Guilds, Sir David was able to take a leading part in the design and construction (at cost) of the new headquarters in Portland Place, which was to serve the institute so well for another 35 years. He continued to support City

Badge, an honour bestowed on only a handful of people other than nurses.

Another example of Sir David's business acumen combined with charitable concern was his interest in the International Apprentice Competitions, the precursor of the International Youth Skill Olympics. He chaired the organisation responsible for staging the 1966 competition in Glasgow — the first time that Britain hosted this event. He remained closely involved with British participation in these "Skill Olympics" in the 1960s and 1970s. He subsequently became a most valued supporter of UK Skills, the organisation set up in 1990 to promote vocational skills competitions.

In the City of London Sir David joined the Freedom of the Clothworkers' Company in 1932, became a Warden in 1962, a member of the Court of Assistants in 1964 and Master for the year 1974-75. He lived to be Senior Past Master several years and, in 1996, led the way forward as First Assistant Emeritus. He will be remembered for his innovation and entrepreneurship which has made the Clothworkers' Company and its charitable arm, the Clothworkers' Foundation, the forces that they are today.

His later years were saddened by the death in 1991 of his architect wife, Mona, to whom he was devoted. In her memory he devoted himself to maintaining the garden at Pulborough, Sussex, that she had created. He is survived by their two daughters

AIR COMMODORE JAMES LEATHART

Air Commodore James Leathart, CB, DSO, wartime fighter ace, died on November 17 aged 83. He was born on January 3, 1915.



Leathart receiving his DSO from King George VI at RAF Hornchurch in the summer of 1940

JAMES LEATHART won his DSO in one of the most daring rescue missions of the war when he snatched a fellow pilot to safety from across the Channel. It happened in May 1940 after Leathart, while flying back in his Spitfire from a sortie over France, saw the other pilot bale out near Calais. On returning to his Hornchurch base, where he was commanding 54 Squadron, he heard that Squadron Leader Drogo White, CO of 74 Squadron — also stationed at Hornchurch — had gone missing, and guessed that it was White's parachute he had seen.

Seizing the station's two-seater trainer, a brightly painted orange Miles Master, he set back across the Channel — escorted by two Spitfires to protect the unarmed Master from the enemy. While the Spitfires engaged a force of Messerschmitts, Leathart scoured the area around Calais Marck airfield for the missing officer. On landing he heard a German column on the road nearby, and leapt from the parked plane into a ditch — to land almost on top of Drogo White. "What the hell are you doing here?" cried the other man.

They stayed in hiding until the Germans had passed by and the sky was clear, then scrambled back to the conspicuous Miles Master which, by some miracle, had escaped being spotted. With no electric starter on board, they had to crank the engine manually before taking off across the Channel — flying for most of the way off above the sea.

Leathart was recommended for a VC, and but for the many acts of bravery at that time, would probably have got it. As it was, he was awarded the DSO, which King George VI presented at Hornchurch. The base was too embattled to

spare Leathart for a day out at Buckingham Palace.

Leathart stayed with 54 Squadron throughout the Battle of Britain — whose young pilots dubbed him "The Prof" because of his appetite for mathematics. He then served in Fighter Command headquarters before going on to lead night fighter squadrons in the Western Desert and Europe.

As a 29-year-old group captain, he was personal staff officer and pilot to Air Chief Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh Mallory during the preparations for D-Day. Leathart himself landed on Juno Beach at 7.30 in the morning of D-Day, in charge of a radar unit for controlling night fighter operations, and later commanded 148 Wing, with four squadrons of Mosquitoes, during the allied advance into central Germany.

Newcastle upon Tyne, who patronised the Pre-Raphaelites and built up what was once known as the Leathart Collection. James's grandmother had been painted by some of the most celebrated of them, including Rossetti, and a portrait of her hangs in the Tate Gallery.

James, a lifelong motoring enthusiast who raced in an R-type MG before the war, went to St Edward's School, Oxford, where he not only owned his own car but drove the headmaster around. The latter, an ordained clergyman, repaid the honour some years later by officiating at his "chauffeur's" wedding. James proceeded to Liverpool University to read for a degree in engineering, but also joined the Auxiliary Air Force as a founder member of 610 Squadron. To his parents' consternation, he then abandoned his degree course and joined the RAF.

He has been credited with destroying at least eight enemy aircraft during the war. A kindly, quiet, reflective man, however, he was inwardly scarred by his experience and disliked any references to his "tally". Some years later he was invited to meet a German pilot whom he had shot down, but politely declined because the memories were too painful.

He was tempted out of the RAF by the offer of a lucrative appointment in the firm of Maybridge Enterprises. He left there to join Cleanacres, a crop-spraying company, whose equipment he designed and with whom he remained until the 1970s. He then retired to his own well-equipped workshop and to indulge his passions for fly-fishing and ornithology.

He married his wife "Dai" (pronounced "day"), a Birkenhead girl whom he met through playing badminton on Merseyside, in 1939. She died in June and James Leathart, who never recovered from the loss, is survived by two sons and a daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

A collection of travel and service advertisements including: GIFTS, DOMESTIC & DIRECTORY, FLIGHTS DIRECTORY, FARESAVERS, CHARTERED FLIGHTS, Jetworld, GREAT DEALS, FLIGHTSEEKERS, JETLINE, OVERSEAS EXPRESS, and LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES.

Financial news article titled "Liquidator sues Kevin Maxwell for £450m" and "ON THIS DAY December 11, 1991". The article discusses the liquidation of British Midland International (BIM) and the legal actions taken against former executives Kevin Maxwell and Robert Maxwell.



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BUSINESS EDITOR Patricia Wheatcroft

FRIDAY DECEMBER 11 1998

Bank acts on rates as deflationary fears grow

By Alasdair Murray and Janet Bush

THE Bank of England yesterday cut rates by 0.5 per cent as new research heightened fears that the economy may be on the verge of deflation.

The Bank's move was warmly welcomed by both business and unions with the Confederation of British Industry claiming the decision proved that the Monetary Policy Committee was prepared to act against the dangers of deflation. However, the British Retail

Consortium gave warning that the retail sector was already on the edge of deflation with more than 200 commonly purchased items nearly 1 per cent cheaper than they were last year.

The Bank said that it had taken the decision to reduce rates from 6.75 per cent to 6.25 per cent because of the weakening domestic economy and further falls in commodity prices.

Indeed, that recent economic surveys had pointed to a further deterioration "across the economy" and that "the downside risks to activity and inflation have increased".

The half point cut prompted only a muted reaction in the markets with most of the decrease already priced in. The FTSE 100 only briefly turned higher following the announcement and ultimately closed down 8.8 points at 5,660.3. The pound closed marginally down against the mark at DM2.7616.

However, economists hurriedly moved to rewrite forecasts for base rates with many now predicting that rates could fall as low as 5 per cent by the middle of next year. Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Smith Barney/Clubbank, said: "It is too late to do anything about the bleak outlook for the economy in the next two to three quarters and this will create lasting downward pressure on inflation that will allow rates to fall a long way."

Ken Jackson, general secretary of the AEEU, said: "The MPC has some way to go but it is on the right track, avoiding a full-blown recession."

Dr Ian Peters, deputy director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, predicted the decision would help to "restore business confidence in the MPC".

The British Retail Consortium's new Shop Price Index, which measures the prices of the 200 most commonly bought items, showed that high street prices in November were 0.87 per cent lower than a year ago.

The new index includes goods from five categories: food and drink, household goods, furniture, clothing and personal goods.

However, the BRC was forced to acknowledge that the survey was not all encompassing and the 200 items were probably the most competitively priced on the high street.

Unlike the official Retail Prices Index, the new index does not include items such as cars, services such as a hair cut, or taxes such as council tax and vehicle excise duty.

Commentary, page 31
A genuine threat, page 33

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5660.3	(-8.8)
FTSE All Share	2583.58	(-2.84)
Nikkei	14807.80	(-124.10)
New York Dow Jones	8902.96	(-108.33)
S&P Composite	1171.56	(-11.83)

US RATE

Federal Funds	6.75	(4.75)
Long bond	104.7	(104.4)
Yield	4.95	(4.98)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	6.75	(6.75)
Libor 3m	6.75	(6.75)
Libor 6m	6.75	(6.75)
Libor 9m	6.75	(6.75)
Libor 12m	6.75	(6.75)
Yield	118.71	(118.44)

STERLING

New York

London	1.6675	(1.6555)
DM	1.6641	(1.6580)
FF	2.7816	(2.7653)
SP	1.3534	(1.3527)
SF	2.2434	(2.2518)
Yen	195.17	(195.27)
S Index	99.6	(99.6)

\$\$\$: DOLLAR

London	1.6550	(1.6685)
DM	1.6600	(1.6530)
FF	2.7800	(2.7700)
SP	1.3500	(1.3500)
SF	2.2400	(2.2500)
Yen	195.00	(195.00)
S Index	100.0	(100.0)

North Sea Oil

Brent15-day(Feb)	\$10.10	(\$10.25)
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GOLD

London close	\$294.65	(\$293.85)
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Doulton cuts one fifth of workforce

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

A FURTHER round of job losses hit the country yesterday, a fortnight before Christmas, led by the announcement of 1,200 redundancies - most compulsory - at Royal Doulton, the china manufacturer.

The job losses at Royal Doulton amount to more than a fifth of its UK workforce of 5,200. Fears also hang over 600 jobs at Volvo, while Thames Water is to make 300 people redundant.

However, there was good news for the North East - a region that has been badly hit by factory closures and abandoned inward investment projects - with the announcement that Orange, the mobile

phone operator, is to create 500 jobs.

Royal Doulton staff face the loss of their jobs just after the Christmas period. Remaining colleagues have been told that further positions could be cut next year after a big plunge in the company's sales. The losses will be spread across the company's operations in Stoke-on-Trent and a series of poorly performing shops and franchises will also be closed. Its St Mary's site in Stoke-on-Trent is to shut next year - a year ahead of schedule.

The company's glass business - Christmas - could face rationalisation. Action next year. Royal Doulton is also to squeeze its five china products

divisions into two, triggering more redundancies.

Ken Jackson, general secretary of the AEEU union, said: "This is a major blow to the employees who have worked productively for the company and is particularly bitter just before Christmas."

In Scotland, the AEEU is to press the Government to step in to save 600 jobs at a Volvo bus and truck manufacturing plant in Irvine, Ayrshire. The plant already faces the loss of 250 jobs but the union fears it could be closed altogether.

In London and the South East 300 jobs are to go at Thames Water. The company said the cuts were part of an efficiency drive. Unison, the union, said employees are surprised that a successful company had to cut nearly 10 per cent of its workforce.

Peter Mandelson, Trade and Industry Secretary and MP for Hartlepool, announced the new Orange jobs on a visit to the North East. They have been created in a new £5 million call centre in Peterlee, Co Durham. Mr Mandelson said job gains were outnumbering losses in the North East despite closures at companies such as Siemens and Fujitsu. Siemens announced the loss of 1,100 jobs in July, while Fujitsu, which is in Tony Blair's constituency, said it would close a factory with 570 job losses in September.

Commentary, page 31



Out with a bang: *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* was among PFE's last releases

Seagram rolls final credits on Polygram films

By Chris Ayres

THE credits finally rolled last night for PolyGram Films Entertainment (PFE), the company that led the revival of the British film industry with hits such as *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* and *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

PFE found itself put up for sale earlier this year for \$1 billion (£600 million) after its parent company, the Dutch entertainment giant PolyGram, was bought by Canada's Seagram in a \$10.4 billion deal.

Yesterday, however, Seagram admitted that it had failed to find a buyer for the business and instead said it would fold PFE's production arm into its own Universal Studios division.

Stewart Till, the former head of PFE, will lead the integration of film and video operations, although it is not known whether he will stay in the long term.

Ron Meyer, president of Universal Studios, said: "Although there are redundancies and certain assets may be more valuable to third parties, we believe that a substantial portion of PFE is complementary to Universal's filmed entertainment operations."

Seagram has already sold PFE's film library to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer for \$250 million, and it is rumoured that Britain's Carlton Communications is in the market to pick up its library of television programmes for \$100 million.

Seagram also revealed its final plans for the merged music operations of Universal and PolyGram, which will see the likes of the famous Island and Mercury record labels merged.

Asia crisis blamed as Ericsson sheds 10,000

A SLOWDOWN in the worldwide telecoms industry is hitting Ericsson, the Swedish maker of mobile phones, which yesterday issued profit warning and announced plans to cut 10,000 jobs.

Ericsson said that its fourth quarter profits could be 15-20 per cent below expectation, causing its shares to plunge 22 per cent and taking Nokia down 4 per cent. The firm blamed the Asian slump and general economic uncertainty.

Ericsson's mobile phone business is suffering from the switch to cheap pre-paid models, which account for a third of the market and generate low margins for manufacturers.

Meanwhile, Ericsson's land line business is suffering from weak demand. Big utilities, such as BT, are holding back due to uncertainty over the future direction of technology.

Ericsson employs 1,000 people in the UK and has a plant at Horsham. It would not discuss redundancies.

Property tax loophole targeted

By Anne Ashworth

THE Inland Revenue is expected to move against complex inheritance tax avoidance schemes involving family trusts after a landmark ruling in the House of Lords.

In a long-running tax wrangle, the Revenue was yesterday subjected to an embarrassing defeat at the hands of the family of the late Lady Ingram. As a result, however, it is likely to act soon to stem losses from arrangements in

which the elderly transfer their houses to their children, in return for lifetime leases.

The implications for Middle Britons whose cash is tied up in property are clear.

John Battersby, tax partner at KPMG, the accountant, predicted that many would attempt to pre-empt any legislative so as to protect their heirs from inheritance tax that is payable on the portion of an estate over £223,000.

The focus of the taxman's defeat in the Lords was *Hurst Lodge*, the Berkshire manor house of the late Lady Ingram, a relation of *Tara Palmer-Tomkinson*, the "It girl".

In 1987 Lady Ingram transferred the freehold in her home to her lawyer, who was to hold the house in trust for her family. She was granted a 20-year lease, permitting her to remain in the house but die two years later.

The Revenue contended that the transfer was a "gift with reservation" making the property liable to tax, as Lady In-

gram had effectively retained ownership. But Patricia Syed of solicitors Charles Russell, solicitors for the Ingram executors, said that the Law Lords took the view that, once the lease was granted, the property no longer belonged to Lady Ingram, but to her heirs.

But Mr Battersby warned that anyone contemplating an Ingram-type scheme should take legal advice.

"It would be very easy to make an error in the drawing up of a scheme," he said.

Rover pact's decision day

THE flexible working deal agreed by Rover and its unions is likely to be ratified by workers today, clearing the way for 2,500 voluntary redundancies in the loss-making group (Adam Jones writes).

The result of a ballot of union members is to be declared at lunchtime. Union leaders have urged approval. The deal should safeguard the imperilled Longbridge car plant.

Rover's backer, page 34

Pensions review sets sights on youngsters

THREE million people are to be contacted by their insurance companies early next year in an attempt to find younger people who have been mis-sold personal pensions (Marianne Curphey writes).

The move is the start of Phase 2 of the pensions review. Phase 1, which targeted compensation for retired people or those 15 years from retirement, will be completed

this month. Financial advisers, however, criticised yesterday's announcement by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) as an attempt "to find a needle in a haystack".

So far £1.6 billion out of a total estimated £11 billion compensation has been paid. The FSA believes that 670,000 people have been wrongly advised to take out a personal pension. The industry estimates the figure at 25,000.

Commentary, page 31

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CROSS
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Plaudits for Labour strategy on competition

By Janet Bush and Alasdair Murray

THE Government's strategy for improving Britain's productivity yesterday received a strong endorsement from the leading academic authority in the field in the week before publication of the Competitiveness White Paper.

Michael Porter, Professor of Business Administration at the Harvard Business School and author of the 1990 best-seller *The Competitive Advantage of Nations*, said: "A lot of what the Labour Government is saying is music to my ears." He applauded the new emphasis on improving education, on increasing expenditure on research and development and on promoting competition. However, Professor Porter used meetings with Treasury officials on Wednesday and with Peter Mandelson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, yesterday

to urge a far bolder approach. Mr Mandelson yesterday began to set out his vision for the White Paper, expected to place great emphasis on improving Britain's innovation record. It will seek to build up Britain's science base and take advantage of the £1.5 billion in extra spending already earmarked for science development in the Budget.

Mr Mandelson is expected to emphasise Britain's poor record of turning discoveries into viable commercial products and to devise ways of encouraging business start-ups and an "American spirit of enterprise".

Professor Porter yesterday advocated a cut in the rate of capital gains tax to 20 per cent, tapering down to zero. This compares with the standard corporate CGT rate of 31 per cent with plans to taper to 10 per cent for long-term investments. He also called for a simple across-the-board tax credit to reward increased R&D spending.

He said that the Government's recent attacks on implicit price collusion in some sectors (supermarkets, for example) had been well targeted but said that the Government must do more to take the politics out of merger policy. He lent his weight to the idea of removing from the Trade and Industry Secretary the final say on mergers.

The White Paper is also expected to look at ways of harnessing the economic potential of communication developments such as the Internet and how the "clustering" of high-tech start-ups can be encouraged. The DTI is considering appointing a specific minister charged with trying to remove the "obstacles and barriers" to clusters. Clusters are one of Professor Porter's key ideas.



PETER DAVIES/MCELLEAN

Stagecoach interim surges by 33%

By Fraser Nelson

A COMMUTER boom at South West Trains has helped Stagecoach emerge among the fastest-growing companies in the FTSE 100, with profits up 33 per cent at the half-year stage.

Although the London Waterloo train network operator was fined £833,000 for punctuality failings over the six months to September 30, the company managed to increase passenger numbers by 6.5 per cent — substantially ahead of the national trend.

The franchise produced pre-tax profits of £17 million for the half-year, some £3 million above what the City had been expecting. It also emerged that Stagecoach is to take on its rival National Express in bidding for five lucrative train and tram networks being privatised in Melbourne, Australia. Mike Kinski, chief executive, said: "We already operate in Queensland, and we are very keen to expand so we'll definitely be bidding for them."

It is bidding through a joint venture with Jarvis, the track maintenance company and Gonián, an Australian finance company that leases trains. Group pre-tax profits were £96.1 million (£70.5 million) for the six months to October 31 and earnings 5.6p (4.2p) per share. The interim dividend rises to 1p (0.8p).

Commentary, page 31

EMAP and Capital link for radio bids

EMAP and Capital Radio, the media groups, are joining forces to bid for digital radio licences in London, Manchester and Birmingham. They would operate the local digital multiplexes as a 50:50 joint venture. If their bids succeed, Capital Radio and EMAP plan to simulcast their existing stations, meaning that their analogue licences would be automatically renewed for another six to eight years.

Capital currently has 14 radio licences throughout Britain, including three London stations, while EMAP operates a string of radio stations in London and other cities under its Magic and Kiss brands. Earlier this year, both Capital and EMAP decided against bidding for Britain's first nationwide commercial digital radio licence.

Bioglan's £193m tag

BIOGLAN PHARMA is to join the stock market next week valued at £193 million. It has raised £20 million by placing new shares with institutional investors, and has netted £11 million from a tie-up with Elan, the Irish/American pharmaceutical concern. Bioglan makes skin creams for complaints such as eczema, and is developing drug delivery mechanisms. It forecast profits of £2.7 million in the year to January. The issue of new shares was 100 per cent oversubscribed. *Tempus*, page 32

DMGT ahead 37%

THE Daily Mail and General Trust, publisher of the *Daily Mail* and the *Evening Standard* in London, yesterday said it had seen a slowdown in advertising growth at its regional papers. However, the advertising slowdown had little effect on DMGT's pre-tax profits, up 37 per cent to £197 million in the year to September 27. Sales rose 18 per cent to £1.4 billion, while earnings per share were up 33 per cent to 120.3p. A final dividend of 18p (16p) will be paid on February 12, bringing the total to 26p (23p).

Oftel consults public

OFTEL, the telecoms regulator, yesterday launched a public consultation on how best to provide services such as high-speed Internet access and video on demand for residential and small business telecom users. The watchdog said the main questions it wanted answered were whether there were barriers to the commercial provision of such services and whether Oftel needs to intervene to allow competing network operators to offer these services to customers. Oftel said it would be prepared to consider regulatory actions.

Japanese seek BA link

JAPAN AIRLINES (JAL) yesterday said that it is to forge closer links with British Airways, but that any tie-up would fall short of joining BA's Oneworld international alliance. "A stronger alliance with BA, such as expanding the code-sharing and mileage services, has been discussed," JAL said. It added that it would not join BA's global alliance, which includes American Airlines, Cathay Pacific and Qantas, but would instead look at doing commercial tie-ups with other international carriers.

C&W sells AsiaSat stake

CABLE & WIRELESS, Britain's second largest telephone group, yesterday sold its 28.7 per cent stake in AsiaSat, the Asian-American satellite operator, for £160 million. AsiaSat, based in Hong Kong, owns three satellites used for broadcast and telephone communications, covering two-thirds of the world's population in 53 countries. The deal is part of C&W's long-term plan to dispose of assets over which it has little control, and concentrate on investing in strategic businesses.

Countryside Properties, the mainly south-eastern housebuilder headed by Graham Cherry, chief executive, above, reported a 57 per cent rise in profits to £14.6 million in the year to September 30. It bucked the trend of builders complaining of falling housing transactions

PowerGen pays way out of deals

POWERGEN, the electricity generator, has paid its way out of expensive long-term gas contracts in a £34 million deal with three suppliers (Christine Buckley writes).

Peter Hickson, finance director, said the redrafting of arrangements with BHP Petroleum, Lasmø and Monument Oil and Gas meant that 60 per cent of PowerGen's gas contracts were now closer to current

rent gas market prices. Modification of the contracts with the three will deliver £60 million of annual cost savings starting next year. They will reduce gas supply costs by 37 per cent from the Liverpool Bay field to Connaught Quay power station in North Wales.

Connaught Quay was commissioned two years ago and produced enough power for half of the population of Wales.

Harvey Nichols profit warning

HARVEY NICHOLS, the fashion department store group, was yesterday forced to issue a profit warning after finding that even the rich have begun to curb their spending (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The group said that like-for-like sales in the past ten weeks were 2.7 per cent down on last year and that it may be heading for its first full-year decline in profits since its acquisition by Dickson Poon, the Hong Kong retail entrepreneur, seven years ago.

The company, which has stores in Knightsbridge, Central London, and in Leeds, also disclosed that it has chosen Edinburgh, rather than Glasgow, for its long-awaited third store. It is in final negotiations with Coal Pension Properties to open a store of 60,000 sq ft to 70,000 sq ft within a redeveloped property on St Andrew Square. It will not open until 2000 at the earliest.

First-half pre-tax profits were flat at £6.1 million in the six months to September 26. Sales rose from £60.9 million to £61.7 million. Earnings per share rose to 7.5p, from 7.5p. The interim dividend remains at 2.1p per share.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.16	2.15
Austria Sch	20.48	18.80
Belgium Fr	60.24	55.28
Canada C\$	2.084	2.075
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8840	0.7825
Denmark Kr	11.12	10.23
Egypt	12.72	12.52
Finland Mk	8.96	8.21
France Fr	6.75	6.57
Germany Dm	2.930	2.668
Greece Dr	490	451
Hong Kong \$	13.72	12.52
India Ru	128	108
Indonesia	1807	1207
Israel Pr	1.1851	1.081
Israel Sh	7.28	6.80
Italy Lit	29.51	27.18
Japan Yen	210.51	192.88
Malta	0.661	0.602
Netherlands G	3.392	3.014
New Zealand \$	3.32	3.06
Norway Kr	13.17	12.23
Portugal Esc	206.39	212.23
S Africa R	10.54	9.58
Spain Ptas	247.08	228.27
Sweden Kr	14.29	13.82
Switzerland Fr	2.400	2.182
Turkey Lira	32099	48739
USA \$	1.770	1.627

Rates for small denomination transactions only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Good News For NatWest Small Business Customers

Interest rates applicable to Business Overdraft Agreements, Business Loan Agreements* and Flexible Business Loan Agreements* are reduced by 1/2% per annum with effect from 11 December 1998.

**This notice does not apply to agreements which specify the rate as fixed or linked to Base Rate.*

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Lloyds Bank Base Rate

Lloyds Bank Plc has decreased its Base Rate to 6.25 per cent p.a. from 6.75 per cent p.a. with effect from close of business, Thursday 10th December 1998.

The change in Base Rate will also be applied from the same date by Lloyds Private Banking Limited.

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Interest rate change

Allied Irish Bank (GB) announces that with effect from close of business on 10 December 1998 its Base Rate was decreased from 6.75% to 6.25% p.a.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

11

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

"It's sort of my revenge against all the duff agents who turned me down over the years..." Michael Caine on his latest role, which signals a return to quality movies. An exclusive interview in *The Sunday Times* this weekend

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Cadillac
The first

Santa arrives ... too late



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Edie George donned his rather Christmas-outfit yesterday and did his best to bring a little seasonal cheer into the marketplace. The Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee's decision to cut base rates by half a point instead of fiddling around with quarters was a welcome move. But it does indicate that there may be an intensifying of the MPC's fears over the impact of the world slowdown on Britain.

As Governor George admitted, the Bank's views on prospects for the world economy have become less optimistic even in the past three weeks, since publication of its last inflation report. That document surely needs to be re-named, since inflation is no longer the bogeyman of the Bank; deflation is the spectre now looming into view.

The new index provided by the British Retail Consortium purports to show that prices are already falling. It may not feel like that to those who wheel their trolleys out of the supermarket in a state of shock at the size of the bill, but had they stuck to the BRC shopping list, they would have seen that bill coming down.

The BRC index is not, however, intended to be a shopping list for consumers — the stores want customers to stray towards all those high-margin items, such as ready-trimmed mange tout and microwavable peking duck. No, the index is aimed squarely at

the politicians who have been condemning the high prices that they perceive to be the norm and aimed at the Office of Fair Trading, which is currently scrutinising the shelves. It is almost certain that the OFT inquiry will lead to a full-scale Monopolies Commission investigation, but the BRC is making a valiant attempt to pre-empt such a time-consuming and costly exercise.

Away from the supermarkets, retailers are being forced to slash their prices in order to win any sales. It is doubtful whether the MPC's generosity yesterday will propel the public back into spending mood; for the resulting cuts in mortgage rates will not filter through into bank accounts until next year. But the cut will be appreciated by exporters, and they will take further comfort from the hints that rates have further to fall. So they do if British manufacturers are to be able to compete with European companies that are blessed with rates now almost uniformly aligned at half our level.

The job losses that are now a regular depressant on the news-wires provide ample evidence of the toll that high interest rates and strong sterling have taken

on British industry. And that should persuade the members of the MPC to examine their notebooks and ponder just why they continued to take a tough line on rates when industry was begging for relief. Their determination to protect the country against inflation has exerted a heavy price. Their new year's resolution might be to pay more attention to DeAnne Julius, the MPC member with industrial experience.

What escape from a china crisis?

It would not be entirely fair to blame yesterday's batch of job losses on the MPC. British industry has done its bit to contribute to its current travails.

The saga of Royal Doulton's gradual downfall is enough to make one feel like smashing a few plates. At least the chairman had the decency to admit that the company was at fault and not

merely pose as another victim of inescapable economic pressures — but then he has the luxury of not having been chairman for very long.

The company lived for years under the protective umbrella of the Pearson Group, where it nestled alongside Château Latour as a great name that did not need to be fully exposed to the rigours of the marketplace. But Lord Blakenham eventually conceded that a media group was, perhaps, not the best owner for such businesses, particularly as, despite his presence as chairman, Pearson really had to stop behaving like a family company. So Royal Doulton was demerged and, in 1993, it joined the stock market.

But it was slow to adjust to its new status. Stuart Lyons ran it as chairman and chief executive yet carried a board of nine directors. Whatever else they did, they did not seem to stop his acquisitive instincts. The noble Royal Doulton found itself the proud

owner of such businesses as Holland Studio Craft, which specialised in hand painted fantasy and novelty gift ware. Not what Lord Blakenham would have wanted in the Pearson boardroom.

It was after another attempted acquisition had been expensively aborted that Mr Lyons left Royal Doulton. This was one of those extremely rare occurrences in which no compensation package was involved, by mutual consent.

But the drastic action which new chairman, Harnish Grossart, is being forced into indicates that there may have been a few cross words involved rather than fond farewells.

Shareholders might wonder how it was that Mr Lyons had time during his reign at Doulton to translate all 103 of Horace's odes. He had them published, and the revenue from the book sales was destined to benefit good causes, but the newly unemployed of Stoke-on-Trent may

feel that they were more deserving of his attention.

Whether Mr Grossart's surgery will be radical enough to ensure Royal Doulton's future cannot be certain. But there is still a market for Bunnikins pottery and fine china. A venture capitalist might spot an opportunity.

All change for Aussie train set

What's the best way to run a railway? When the Melbourne authorities pondered this while devising the privatisation of their train and tram network, they recruited the services of Roger Salmon, the first franchising director who carved up our own British Rail. Having listened to Mr Salmon, Melbourne effectively decided that Railtrack should not exist.

The five train and tram networks Stagecoach is now bidding for in Melbourne are being sold as vertically integrated companies. The trains, signalling, tracks, nuts and bolts will all be run by one company. That company will take 100 per cent of the responsibility for performance. What a glorious idea. No possi-

bility of bickering over who caused the delay to the 10.45 at Wagga Wagga; no problems over access charges or squabbles over penalties. The canny Australians may also have spotted the budgetary benefits of having integrated operators: the fewer companies that are involved, the fewer the demands for profit.

The British privatisation experience has left the taxpayer footing a bill of £1.8 billion this year — more than three times the £446 million of government support that British Rail needed in 1990. And that still does not make the trains run on time. It is good to know we have provided the world with an example of how not to do it, but we must wait on the platform for 2004 before any change to our system is possible.

Dawn of an old era

ACCORDING to Mark Moody-Stuart, Shell has entered a new period "where executive decisions have to be made rapidly and business accountability must be absolutely clear". Shell's entry into this new period has persuaded the Anglo-Dutch giant that it needs to change its structures, although not quite as radically as some had hoped. There will still be two owners with different boards and a plethora of committees. But why has Shell only just entered an era that most companies have been in for decades?

Racal boosted by performance of 'unsung' division

By ADAM JONES

RACAL Electronics shares surged nearly 10 per cent yesterday on interim results buoyed by a strong performance in its "unsung" industrial division and an upbeat trading forecast.

The shares, which rose from 239.9p to 262p, were also lifted by speculation that the defence electronics business could be the target of a bigger competitor, such as GEC or British Aerospace.

Profits before tax were £39.1 million, against £10.7 million last year. Sales fell from £97.5 million to £54.4 million, again reflecting the sale of the loss-making data communications business earlier this year. Racal said its performance would be "significantly enhanced" in 1999-2000.

Sandwiched between higher-profile businesses such as defence and telecommunications, the industrial electronics division — whose products include remote-controlled water survey vehicles — was sometimes seen as a "cash cow" business, Racal admitted. However, its first-half operating profit rose from £14.9 million in 1997 to £21.3 million

The improvement compensated for weakness in the telecommunications division, which offers services to government and companies using Racal cables buried alongside the UK rail network. It missed its sales target by £7 million.

Racal is now trying to market itself more aggressively beyond its traditional customer base of government departments and train operators. However, it is still unable to find a suitable chief executive for the division to lead it to a planned flotation.



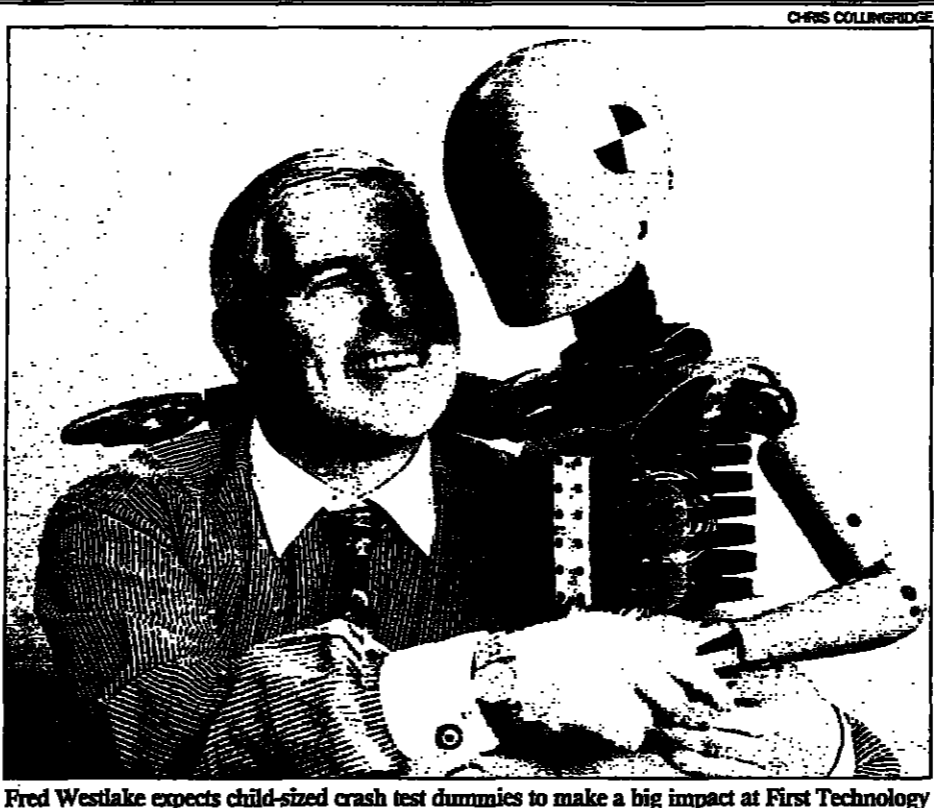
Harrison: major opportunity

Sir Ernest Harrison, group chairman, said: "We are naturally disappointed that we haven't appointed one. It's not for want of trying. We have spent a lot of time interviewing prospective candidates."

Racal said the consolidation of the European defence industry "presents a major opportunity". Sir Ernest denied that Racal must necessarily be swallowed up by a bigger rival. He described Racal as being at the "very top" of second-tier defence contractors: "The Government will always want second-tier contractors for competition on price but more importantly for competition in technology."

The defence electronics division made an operating loss of £6.3 million in the six months after military radio exports were hit by the economic problems in the Far East. However, it has won a series of major contracts recently, including work on the new battlefield radio being prepared for the UK Armed Forces. It should be close to recording an operating profit in the second half.

Tempus, page 32



Fred Westlake expects child-sized crash test dummies to make a big impact at First Technology

Car safety firm set for boost

FIRST TECHNOLOGY, the car safety company, expects to make up to £20 million in sales of child-sized crash test dummies after a number of accidents in the US where children have been killed by air bags (Chris Ayles writes). The company also said that a market had been created for air bags designed for "utility vehicles", which are more likely to roll over than normal cars. Because there is no front impact when a vehicle rolls, many air bags do not work. Fred Westlake, chairman, outlined the new markets as he reported pre-tax profits up 18 per cent to £6.37 million for the six months to October 31. Earnings per share rose 18 per cent to 8.62p. An interim dividend of 2.1p (1.8p) will be paid on March 1.

Williams issues profits warning

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL
CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAMS, the fire and security group that owns Chubb, added its voice to the gloom over world economic problems with a downbeat trading statement yesterday. The company said that profits for the year to December will fall at the bottom of market expectations because of turmoil in the Far East, problems in central Europe and uncertainties in the UK. Its shares fell 10.5p to 352.5p. Williams also said the strength of sterling hit the translation of profits. The integration of Chubb has been completed with the loss of 1,600 jobs. Williams paid £1.3 billion for Chubb early last year. It said it has made £36 million in annual cost savings and will achieve £6 million of profit improvements. Although Williams gave warning about current profits, the company said it was hopeful of improving fortunes in the coming months. It said: "Recent actions by governments and financial institutions emphasise the commitment to maintaining economic stability and, in these circumstances, the outlook currently appears more favourable than it has in recent months."

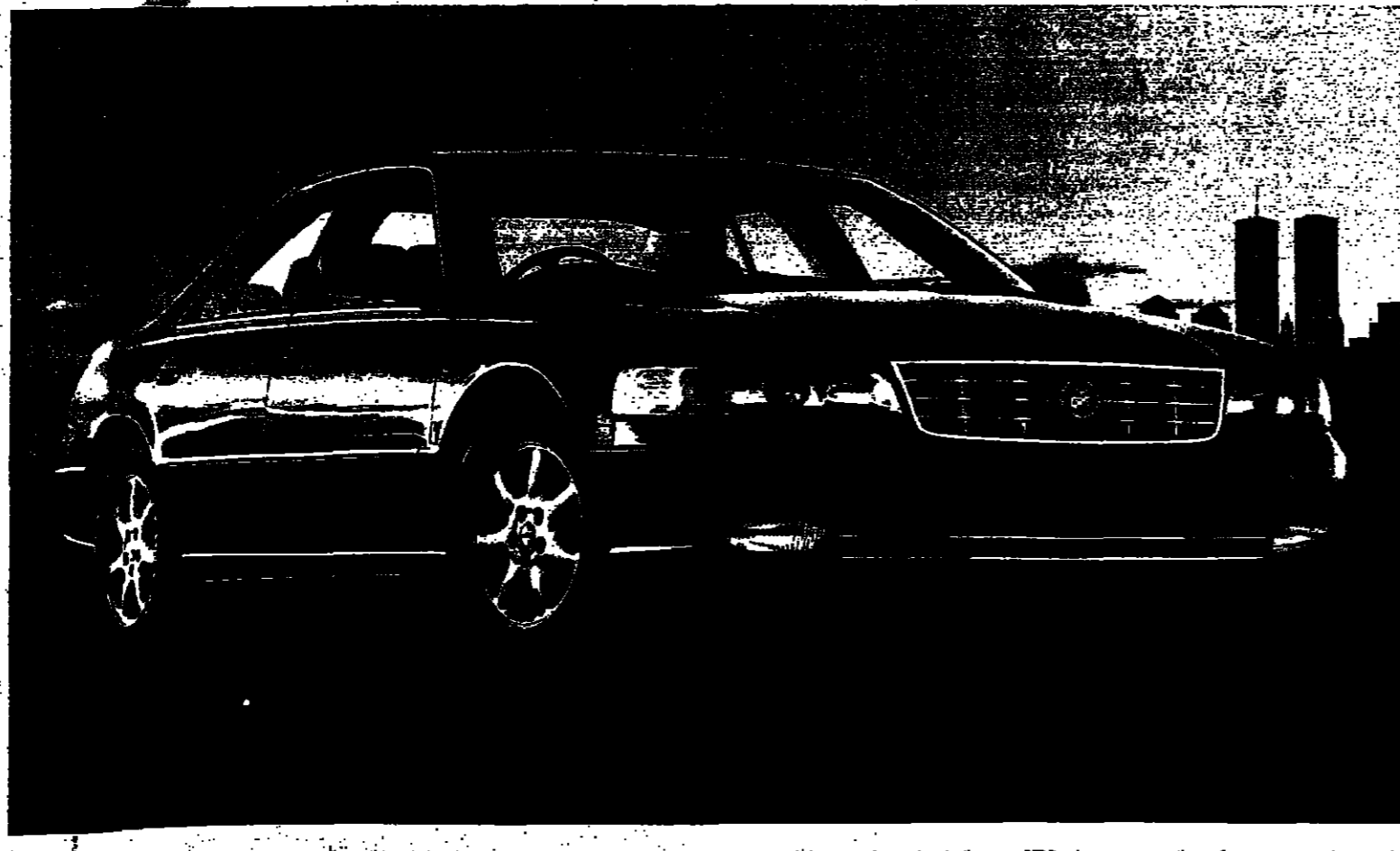
Dividend pegged by cautious HP Bulmer

HP BULMER, the UK's biggest cidermaker, has pegged the interim payout at 5.2p because of uncertainty ahead of its Christmas trading period (Dominic Walsh writes). The group yesterday reported a 2.6 per cent rise in half-year profits to £14.6 million, from turnover up 0.5 per cent at £155 million. Earnings per share reached 17.45p (16.87p). That does not include excep-

WS Atkins climbs after pulling out of Bovis talks

SHARES of WS Atkins enjoyed their sharpest one-day rise as the construction consultancy said it has pulled out of talks to buy Bovis from P&O, the shipping to property group (Fraser Nelson writes). Its shares, which joined the market two years ago, jumped by 17 per cent as it said it may work with Bovis on joint ventures but has ruled out a full merger. Bovis, like WS Atkins, specialises in advising on large construction projects. The City had feared that WS Atkins — which already has £56 million of borrowings — was set to pay through the nose for Bovis and increase its gearing of 99 per cent. It is understood that WS Atkins had been obliged to make a statement to the Stock Exchange last month after word of the negotiations leaked in the City.

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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Hunger for a merger gives Energis new life

THE City's hunger for corporate activity remains as keen as ever. In the wake of Zeneca's proposed merger with Sweden's Astra, the speculators have been turning their attention to other likely candidates.



Sir David Alliance bought two million Coats Viyella shares earlier in the week. Yesterday they rose 1p

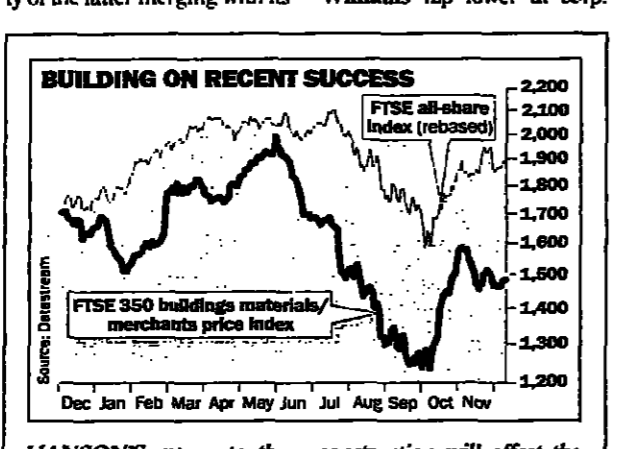
The fire and security systems group gave warning that profits for the current year would come in towards the bottom end of expectations.

But brokers were quick to point out that any bid for Energis would have to have the approval of National Grid, which owns 74 per cent of the shares.

Street was the signal for ScottishPower to come under selling pressure with the price 2p earlier at 627p, after earlier touching 653p.

Atkins surged 90p to 545p. News of further stakebuilding lifted BICC 14p to 62p.

The half-point cut in interest rates to 6.25 per cent voted for by the Monetary Policy Committee came as something of an anti-climax to investors.



The directors have also been buying shares at ITE Group, up 4p at 295p.

Elsewhere in the telecom sector, Colt Telecom firmed 53p to 925p after a presentation for fund managers.

HANSON'S return to the big league this week as a constituent of the top 100 companies is unique.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt recovered an early fall to finish 27p higher at £18.71 as the total number of contracts completed reached 20,000.

MAJOR INDICES

Table of major indices including New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and others with their respective values and changes.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent issues including 2nd St Deds Equity Units, AIM VCT, Airbus Sub Cov 2004, and others with their prices and changes.

NIGHTS ISSUES

Table of nights issues including LPL n/p (7), PPI Therapeutics n/p (80), and others.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table of major changes in stock prices, including Stock, David B. Sys., Rascal, and others.

TEMP

New issues, new trust

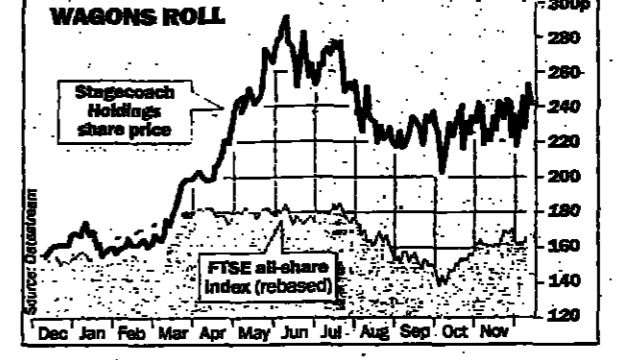
ONE swallow does not make a summer but it is better than nothing Bioglan Pharma, the drugs company currently jumping through the flotation hoops, is one of the few sizeable new issues to hit the London market in the past six months.

The temptation for those selling shares in new issues to be greedy is great. No doubt realistic new issue valuations, if they are here now, would soon be forgotten about when good times roll.

Stagecoach

AFTER building a £3 billion company from an £13.750 loan, Brian Souter is expected to repeat the trick. Stagecoach is among the fastest-growing companies in the FTSE 100 but its share rating of 20 times' forecast earnings depends on this momentum being maintained.

The notorious Virgin Rail is a worrying gamble, born of desperation. The fans say he is a pioneer of transport privatisation and that Stagecoach occupies position A, best placed to jump when other countries begin to privatise.



Compass

WHILE peers in the brewing, restaurant and leisure sectors have had a torrid summer, Compass has been remarkably resilient. The shares are not far off an all-time high.

where interim sales were disappointing and the chief executive post remains troublingly vacant.

RACAL

RACAL has delivered on the military contracts it hoped to win, providing a solid platform for future growth despite short-term export difficulties.

RACAL insists that there is a viable independent future for second-tier defence suppliers such as itself. It believes governments will want to preserve them to maintain technological diversity.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR (FOB), and MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION.

ICIS-LOR (London 5.00pm)

Table of ICIS-LOR prices for CRUDE OILS (Brent, WTI) and PRODUCTS (NHT).

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including Long Gilt, German Govt Bond (Bond), Five Year Gilt, and others.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table of money rates for Prime Bank Bills (Rate), Discount Market Loans, and Treasury Bills.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposits for various currencies and terms.

LIFE OPTIONS

Table of life options including various insurance policies and their rates.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table of London metal exchange prices for various metals like Gold, Silver, and Platinum.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (LBMA & Co)

Table of gold and precious metals prices including Bullion, Gold, Silver, and Platinum.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies and terms.

Large table of various financial data, including company shares, bonds, and other market instruments.

Large advertisement on the right side of the page featuring the text 'Falling', 'Sting in the tail for new bargain hunters', and 'A dog's life', with a graphic of a dog.

The Times examines the implications of deflation for Britain's economy

Falling prices pose a genuine threat

Deflation? Nowhere on the radar screen. That was the Bank of England's verdict in the latest *Inflation Report*. But don't bank on it. In the wider sweep of history, periods of deflation have been normal. It is only since the Second World War that prices have continually risen. Moreover, the economic establishment has a record of getting the big issues wrong.

What was the great fear after the war as we embarked on the strongest boom in our history, accompanied by a period of continually rising prices? You've guessed it - deflation. By contrast, in the 1970s, for a time, it looked as though we were on the brink of hyper-inflation. Scared by that experience, a whole generation of policymakers has grown up paranoid about inflation and finding it simply incredible that deflation could pose any threat in modern economies.

But much of the world is already experiencing falling prices. Even here in Britain, manufacturers have been struggling to hold their selling prices, while the price of

their inputs has plummeted. In the high-tech sector, prices have been falling sharply for years, but they have also been falling for more basic things such as electricity, telephone calls and clothing.

There are still items that rise year after year, of course, and the retail price index (RPI) is still telling us that inflation is 2.5 per cent. But other measures put it much lower. Properly measured, inflation is probably well below 2 per cent, and it may even be below 1 per cent.

It is particularly striking that low inflation comes at a time of prosperity. The economy has been growing nicely for six years and unemployment is very low. If 1 to 2 per cent is what the demon inflation can do in these circumstances, what will happen when the economy is in recession? Deflation.

Two things are obscuring this prospect: the continual rise of asset prices, including houses, and the steady increase in pay. If this continues it will indeed be impossible for deflation to take hold. Something will have to give. The inflation

nutters and the sado-monetarists, of course, think that it will be prices. They say that surging asset prices, implying rising wealth, and increases in pay at a time of low unemployment spell inflation. But in my view, the adjustment will come from the other direction.

A second stock market plunge will erase the apparent increases in wealth and the housing market will turn. Meanwhile, falling selling prices and squeezed profits will cause pay inflation to fall back. So even wage deflation is on the horizon. That would again. What do we

mean by deflation? Sometimes the term is used to mean falls in the general level of consumer prices, and sometimes falls in output. So deflation is readily associated with depression and slump. That is how it was in the 1930s. But it is possible to have a slump without falling prices, and to have falling prices without a slump.

Indeed, for much of the 19th Century, in both Britain and America, prices fell for decades while output rose sharply and living standards improved. Some of the greatest economists have advocated a regime of continually falling prices on the grounds that this is an efficient and fair way of distributing the benefits of productivity increases throughout society.

So the question is whether the emergence of falling prices in today's conditions would be benign or whether it would be a reason for weakness of output. I suspect that the emergence of deflation would cause serious problems in the economy, particularly with regard to debt. Anyone who has borrowed on fixed-interest terms would find that the real cost of borrowing would be

higher. Moreover, there could be a severe shock to consumer psychology at a time when worries would be mounting because of recession and increasing unemployment.

Precisely because of this, though, should we not assume that those far-sighted people on the MPC would take effective action to head off deflation, with the result that it never actually appeared? That was the official response when I first wrote of the deflationary danger some three years ago. I should emphasise that I have the greatest respect for the members of the MPC and I am sure that if they truly saw the deflationary danger coming they would take radical action. But they cannot perform miracles and they are in danger of assuming that interest rate changes are far more powerful than they really are. Reductions of 0.5 per cent each month may be neither here nor there. What really matters is confidence.

The danger is that the Bank is reducing interest rates behind the deterioration in confidence, with the result that the reductions are perceived as ineffective. And if they are perceived as ineffective, they probably will be. Moreover, as the Japanese experience testifies, as interest rates fall, the authorities come closer to a brick wall - absolute zero. At that point, if falling prices have set in, you are really in trouble.

Fortunately, we are not there yet. Next week's RPI figures will show inflation still bubbling along, but I reckon that you will not be paying much more, if at all, for your Christmas presents this year, and the shops are already in sale mode. Meanwhile, for Britain's manufacturers, deflation is part of the present reality. Let us hope that the MPC cuts rates so vigorously over the next year that the worst dangers can be avoided. If we do expect deflation, pray that it is the benign sort and not the stuff of which economic nightmares are made.

ROGER BOOTLE

Roger Bootle's book, *The Death of Inflation*, was published in 1996 by Nicholas Brealey.

Sting in the tail for new breed of bargain hunters

Falling prices appear, at first sight, to be unadulterated good news for consumers, and there is every sign that in the years ahead they could enjoy value for money as never before.

Several important deflationary forces are at work that make the consumer king. Global competition is one of the most important arbiters of prices. There is now a critical mass of developing countries with low labour costs that are substantial exporters to the rest of the world. This is bearing down on prices. Traditional retailers are having to compete with bargains on the Internet. Electronic commerce is set to grow exponentially and prices will drop even further.

With the coming of the single currency to Europe, consumers will be able to compare prices across borders and be far less willing to pay over the odds. In the single market, a German car dealer charging 10 per cent more than his French counterpart will soon be deserted by his customers.

Even outside the euro zone, British producers are likely to come under greater scrutiny

as consumers compare prices across the Channel. Why should cars, compact discs, shoes or a meal be so much more expensive than they are a ferry or train ride away?

Growing discontent about the prices consumers are asked to swallow is putting unprecedented pressure on retailers and producers to be more competitive and is reinforcing deflation. Price sensitivity is, in itself, a by-product of the low inflation of the 1990s. Employers have pointed to relatively low headline inflation rates to keep annual pay settlements low. Employees with little or no increase in their salaries each year have been less and less prepared to accept higher prices on the high street.

Time and again the new, canny breed of consumer has played chicken with retailers and won. When retailers tried to put up prices, sales went down. As soon as prices were cut again, shoppers returned.

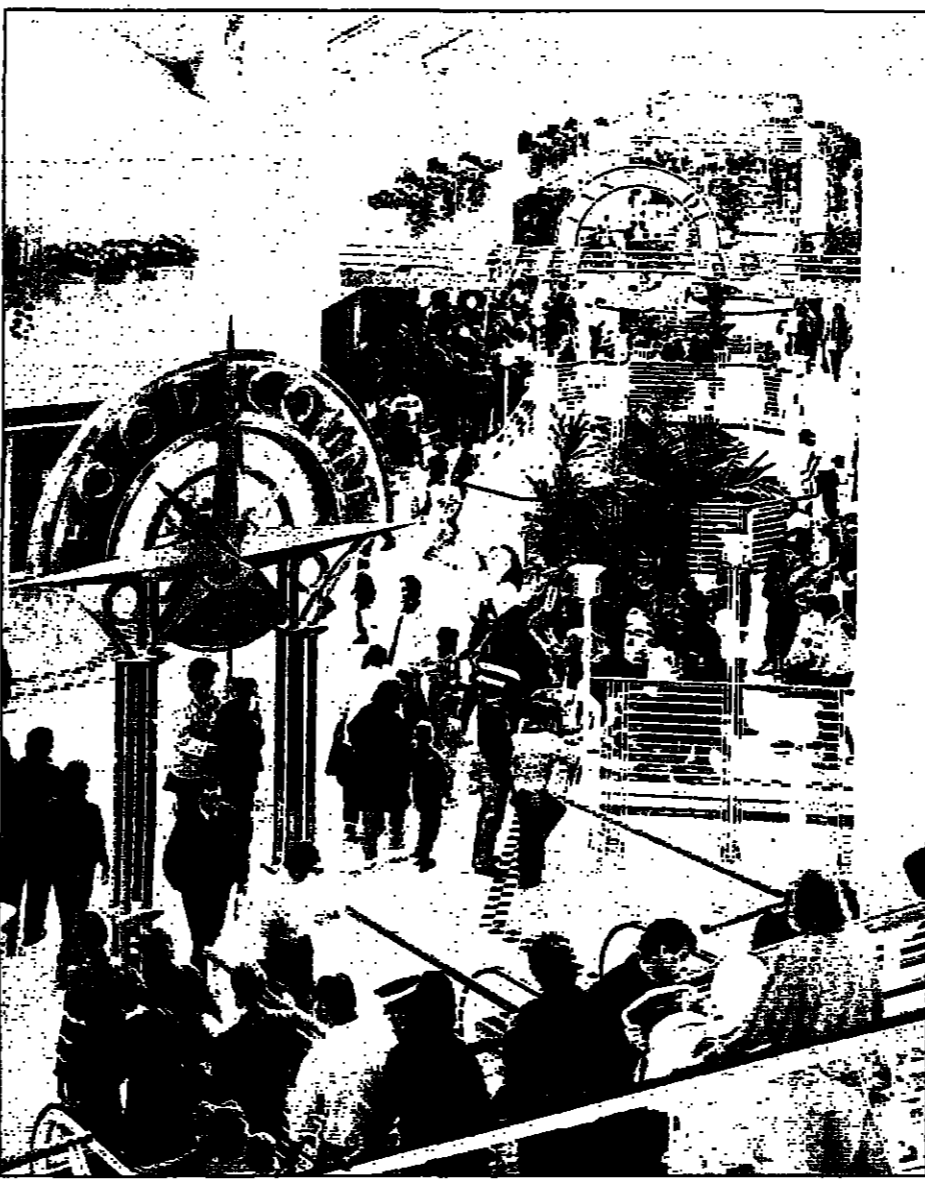
Yesterday's new shop price index from the British Retail

Consortium showed that the 200 most commonly purchased items have fallen in price by nearly 1 per cent over the past year - proof, as the BRC put it, that inflation is not coming from the high street. Perceptions remain quite different. At the launch of the index, one reporter expressed reluctance to write a story about falling prices because he said he would be bombed by calls from angry readers.

Despite low inflation and deflation in some cases, consumers want even better value.

This is where there is danger. Zero inflation is relatively healthy. Isolated examples of falling prices that reflect technological change or more efficient production are also good news. But falling prices across an economy are hazardous. There comes a point where companies cannot find any more efficiency gains and will simply go out of business. Suddenly, the powerful consumer is out of a job, his income drastically cut. Economy-wide deflation, however superficially attractive, has to be avoided.

JANET BUSH



Christmas shoppers have exerted deflationary pressure by playing a waiting game with retailers

Big guns will rule in search for growth

Few in the City have ever experienced outright deflation. Nobody has a strategy to handle such a phenomenon. For corporate Britain a sustained period of falling prices would be poison. Virtually no stock would remain unaffected.

All analysts can do in the current environment is mobilise their theories for low inflation and hope that nothing worse happens. With low inflation, the growth stock is king. Fund managers who balk at the high price/earnings multiples of high-tech companies may have to bite the bullet if they are to meet their benchmarks, let alone outperform them.

"Anything with the prospect of double-digit growth is, by definition, sexy in a low-growth environment," says David Rough, head of investments at Legal & General, the insurance company. But such growth stocks, particularly in the technology sector, can be far more volatile.

A prolonged era of low inflation will also widen the gap in valuations between bigger and smaller stocks as fund managers head for growth, and safety, in the FTSE 100 in-

dex. The average pension manager's portfolio is likely to consist mainly of FTSE 100 stocks, plus a kicker from the technology or telecoms sector.

Industrial equities, especially those in cyclical businesses, are sure to suffer, says Richard Crehan, head of UK equities strategy at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, the investment bank. He said: "Many have already fallen out of the FTSE 100, which is now dominated by service groups with control over their pricing." Fund managers will also cast a more favourable eye on bonds as the risk premium of equities narrows. Alan Rubenstein, a managing director at Morgan Stanley and vice-chairman of the National Association of Pension Funds, says the risk premium of equities in Germany, which has enjoyed low-inflation for some time, is less than 3 per cent.

"There is no doubt that bonds are more attractive to fund managers," says his colleague Gareth Derbyshire, who believes that falling interest rates will revive the European high-yield market. Fund managers' appetite for corporate bonds, including junk, will grow as they come under increasing pressure to deliver better returns.

For most pension fund managers, who have the luxury of looking to the longer-term, low inflation is a tactical rather than strategic issue. Strategy is determined by their asset liabilities, so that the scheme's investments match the needs of the scheme member.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

RICHARD MILES

Savers set to shy away from rising risk of shares

For private investors the death of inflation threatens to be a case of back to the future, heralding a dramatic return to a prewar era where bonds, not shares, were the best place to place your savings, and a home was a house you lived in, not a pension fund made of bricks and mortar.

Chris Tracey, a global strategist at Fleming Investment Management, says investors will have to forget many of the assumptions they

have grown up with as the global economy returns to conditions not seen since the 1930s.

In a world of stable or falling prices people will have less reason to invest in property or equities, he says, assets which in recent decades have provided a valuable hedge against inflation.

It is not a case that the stock market will not grow at all, but simply that investors will not get the reward for taking the extra risk of buying shares.

In the US, for example, the last long period of deflation stretched from 1863-1990. Then the average annual stock market return was 6.9 per cent just 2.4 per cent more than the return from bonds. Historically, US shares have provided an excess return of 3.3 per cent.

Investors here are already taking the hint. Since the crash in the late summer investors have shed £725 million into UK fixed interest funds much of it switched out of equity funds. With interest rates in free-fall and the outlook for dividend payments poor, bond funds represent a less volatile way of achieving a regular income. For retired people relying on savings in the building society they represent the only lifeline from poverty. Fortunately, few

experts predict the savage deflationary spiral that has affected Japan, where many savings rates have gone into negative territory and customers effectively pay banks to look after their money.

Nevertheless, there is a whiff of desperation in the air as the search for income becomes more intense. With gilt and bond yields at record lows following the recent surge in buying, investors are now being encouraged to take on more credit risk

and invest in new "junk" bond funds offering tax-free income of 8 per cent.

If inflation does reach zero, lending to the Government may prove a better bet than junk bonds. Laurence Linklater, director of fixed interest at Dresdner RCM Global Investors, says in this event investors in long gilts could enjoy capital gains of up to 25 per cent as yields slip further to an all-time low of 2.3 per cent.

A dog's life

PROBABLY the oddest, and certainly the most fit-flung, job for a City lawyer, Peter Curnock is a partner with Marriott Harrison, the specialist corporate and media law firm. He has just returned from defending a dangerous dog on Ascension Island.

Curnock was flown down to the South Atlantic by the RAF, having been taken on for reasons too complicated to go into here by David Henry, who grows coffee on nearby (the term is relative) St Helena.

Henry owns a Rhodesian Ridgeback, named Lion, a harmless animal but frisky. Lion barked at Roger Huxley, the resident administrator, at a garden party.

"He's a big dog, and he has a big presence," says Curnock. "And Roger's not a particularly big man."

Huxley wanted to have the animal destroyed. One problem: there are only a few thousand people on Ascension, and no lawyers. It must be close to paradise, therefore, but the case would have to be tried by the administrator, who was also of course the complainant.

So Curnock defended the beast, and the case was prosecuted by the former attorney general for Gibraltar and heard by the chief justice of St Helena. All ended happily with a reprieve for the dog and dinner for Curnock at the official residence.

All the above is true. I can vouch for it. It just reads like an episode from *Rumpole*.

I HAVE this one from the Woolwich, based at Bexley Heath, Kent, and reliant on the awful Connex service into Charing Cross. Two executives were left stranded the other day. The delay, said a Connex employee apparently skilled in the art of irony, was because of the wrong sort of ice on the line. As a result, the train was unable to travel uphill. There are no hills between Bexley Heath and Charing Cross.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

No ho ho

A FESTIVE message from the remains of NatWest Markets, the bits that did not go to Bankers Trust. Staff have received a message headed "Christmas Decorations". There follows an extraordinarily candidly-entitled list of orders.

Do not put them within a foot of light fittings. Do not attach them to glass with transparent film attached to it. All fairy lights to be checked by a competent electrical engineer. Under no circumstances must you... oh, hang it all, just don't bother. Bah, humbug.

A GUSHING pack comes through about the celebrity chef Jean-Cristophe Novelli and his six restaurants. "Jean-Cristophe is still his own man, a chef and an entrepreneur without any financial back-up." Indeed, Novelli

would be, ever since his attempts to sell his empire broke down at the start of this year.

Old pals act

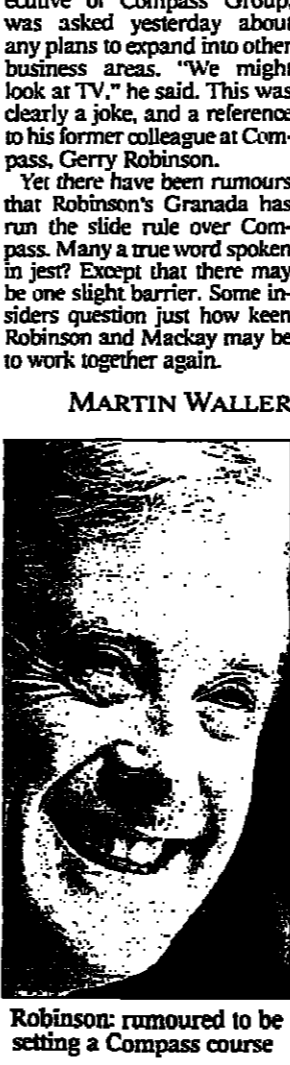
FRANCIS MACKAY, chief executive of Compass Group, was asked yesterday about any plans to expand into other business areas. "We might look at TV," he said. This was clearly a joke, and a reference to his former colleague at Compass, Gerry Robinson.

Yet there have been rumours that Robinson's Granada has run the slide rule over Compass. Many a true word spoken in jest? Except that there may be one slight barrier. Some insiders question just how keen Robinson and Mackay may be to work together again.

MARTIN WALLER

Robinson: rumoured to be setting a Compass course

LORD MARSH also let slip that he had invited Lafontaine to become a member of BFS. Indeed? "He couldn't have done a better job for us over the past few weeks," he suggested.



Robinson: rumoured to be setting a Compass course

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CHASE DE VERE INVESTMENTS PLC

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Rover's Munich backer awaits vote verdict

Rover's 38,000 car workers have their say today with the announcement of the result of a secret ballot on new working practices — which effectively decides the future of the company's plant at Longbridge, Birmingham, the largest car factory in Britain.

Unions and Rover work councils back the deal, and it is hoped that the proposals, which need 75 per cent backing, will gain a big majority.

Both the unions and BMW have made clear that there will be no second offers if workers reject the deal. The approval of Rover's workforce, however, will mean more than that. A unanimous vote would help the man on the other side of the Channel who is probably Rover's most important supporter: Bernd Pischetsrieder, chairman of Rover's parent, BMW.

The ill-starred Rover merger, which had been his first big project at

Sigrid Auferbeck on the workforce ballot that will decide the fate of the Longbridge car plant and affect the struggles inside BMW

becoming head of BMW in 1993, has seen him come under fire in BMW's boardroom.

While rumours about boardroom friction continue to appear in the German press, Pischetsrieder has found support in the unexpected form of Tony Woodley, the Rover union leader.

"If it was not for Pischetsrieder, Rover might not even exist any longer", Woodley told *The Times*. "That man has a clear vision for Rover."

The Rover acquisition was a key battle in the "war of succession" at BMW between Pischetsrieder and

his rival Walter Reitzle, darling of Munich's high society and for a long time designated heir of Eberhard von Kuenheim, then chairman of BMW's management board and now chairman of the supervisory board.

Reitzle who wanted to abandon the Rover brand, lost the war and headed for Porsche. Pischetsrieder took the top job and persuaded von Kuenheim to back his Rover strategy, with a future for the company as an independent, British brand, and talked fellow executives out of plans to shut Longbridge.

Today, Rover's high-profile difficulties and the hundreds of millions of pounds lost, raise questions over Pischetsrieder's decision to leave Rover

on a long leash — even if hitherto he had been praised on all sides for sensitivity in installing the Anglophile Walter Hasselkus as its chairman.

Despite the Munich rumour mill suggesting that his old rival Reitzle may be on his way back, speculation that Pischetsrieder could become the first BMW chairman to be fired, lost much of its currency when Hasselkus agreed last week to shoulder responsibility for Rover's problems and step down.

Pischetsrieder, however, gained only a little time. The Quandt family, the oldest shareholders in BMW, have seen the *grande dame* Johanna Quandt being succeeded by her children, Susann and Stefan, both gradu-

ates of US business schools, who are seeking to raise shareholders' profit expectations.

Analysts have given warning that Rover's problems could jeopardize the performance of the entire BMW group, even though BMW is set to hit its profit target of DM3.3 billion (£1.2 billion) this year.

The decision to bring in Werner Sämman, until now head of the engines and chassis division, to run Rover is being seen in Germany as drawing key personnel away from Munich.

Yet by installing the technocrat Sämman in the Herculean job at Rover, Pischetsrieder has gained time.

The German media may still be buying for the return of Reitzle, but Pischetsrieder is backing his plan for Rover to continue as an independent entity. "The biggest mistake in our industry," he said last week, "is to be short-sighted."

Warning on drugs sector investment

IN A WEEK when Britain became the home to two of the world's top three drugs companies, the UK's pharmaceutical industry has given warning that its continuing success is at a critical crossroads. The proposed £45 billion merger of Britain's Zeneca with Sweden's Astra will form the world's third largest pharmaceuticals group. AstraZeneca will be based in London and will join Glaxo Wellcome at the top of the industry league. However, a report commissioned by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) claims the UK risks missing out on future investment because of globalisation of markets, lowering of trade barriers, and the incentives offered by other nations to attract drug companies.

Trevor Jones, the ABPI's director-general, called on the Government to encourage the development of a "genome valley" in the UK — a cluster of mutually supportive firms working in genetic research and the biosciences. Dr Jones acknowledged that Glaxo Wellcome, SmithKline Beecham and Pfizer, the American company responsible for Viagra, have all made large R&D investments in Britain. But he said the Parke Davis arm of Warner Lambert had closed its laboratories, and that Roche and Novartis, the leading Swiss companies, had only relatively modest research facilities in the UK.

BUPA buys Barbican

BARBICAN HEALTHCARE, the corporate healthcare group, fell into the hands of BUPA yesterday as the private hospital and medical insurance group landed a £22.7 million recommended cash offer for the company. BUPA is offering 117p per share against 82.5p for Barbican at Wednesday's close and has received irrevocable acceptances from Pacific Healthcare which holds 71.9 per cent of Barbican's share capital. Barbican, which was listed on AIM 1996 at 62p, made profits of £100,000 in the half to June 1998, on turnover of £3 million.

No buyer for Hi-Tech

HI-TECH SPORTS, the sports shoemaker, said it had failed in its attempt to find an American partner or buyer. It said sales were down because consumers had moved away from the white trainers it typically made to darker colours and to "retro" styles. The company reported a pre-tax loss of £1.29 million for the six months to October 31, compared with a profit of £1.22 million last time. The company expects to report a full-year profit of not less than £1.5 million (£3.7 million). The loss per share was 2.5p (earnings of 1.2p) and the interim dividend is 0.5p (0.6p).

Reliance profit up 35%

RELIANCE Security Group, the provider of security services, said it was cautiously optimistic about further growth as it announced pre-tax profit up 35 per cent at £2.8 million for the six months to October 30. Earnings per share were 27 per cent higher at 8.0p and turnover was £52.4 million, from £57.8 million last time. The dividend is 2.20p (1.85p). The company, which has just opened an Edinburgh office, said that its strong cash position and the absence of borrowings would enable it to invest in new opportunities as they came along.

Fraud hits Hadleigh

HADLEIGH, a manufacturer of storage tanks, said the improving trend in its performance was masked by the consequences of a fraud at its Cookson and Zinn business. The fraud cost the company £433,000, of which £289,000 relates to 1997-98. Cookson and Zinn has since been placed under new management. Pre-tax profit was £903,000, before exceptional items, for the six months to October 2, against £789,000 last time. Earnings per share were 9.1p (7.2p). Turnover was £15.5 million (£14.3 million). Interim dividend is unchanged at 2.25p.

Compass points to bright future

By DOMINIC WALSH

COMPASS, the world's largest food services company, yesterday defied the economic gloom by announcing a 16 per cent jump in full-year profits and expressing a bullish outlook on future trading.

Shares in the group, one of the stock market's best performers amid the ravages of the past few months, jumped 24p to 644p — not far short of the high of 689p seen in early summer.

Francis Mackay, chief executive, said that the only tangible sign of a downturn had been in Compass's branded concessions business over the summer. "That has now come back and we've seen no other signs of a downturn in any of the countries in which we operate," he said. "Despite some macro-economic concerns, our prospects for long-term growth remain good."

In the year to September 30, profits before tax and exceptional items rose by 16 per cent, to £159.1 million — or up 32 per cent at constant currency rates. Turnover was up 14 per cent to £4.2 billion. Earnings per share reached 17.3p (15.6p). A final dividend of 3.8p makes a total of 5.55p (4.9p).

Operating profit from the UK — which now accounts for just a quarter of group profits, grew by 14 per cent, to £54.3 million. North America, boosted by a full-year contribution from DAKA, jumped by 42 per cent, to £61.6 million, or by 18 per cent on a like-for-like basis. The rest of the world, principally Europe, grew by 12 per cent, to £102.1 million.

Like-for-like margins, a key barometer for contract caterers, advanced strongly in all three divisions, with UK mar-

gins rising from 7 per cent to 7.3 per cent.

Mr Mackay said that this had been achieved through tighter cost controls and better purchasing. He said that a recent deal to centralise all Compass's European coffee buying through Kraft Jacobs Suchard would be replicated for dry groceries and meat buying. Analysts believe that the Kraft deal has cut £5 million from the group's annual coffee bill.

Although Compass has made several acquisitions in recent years, Mr Mackay said that the focus was now on organic growth. Recent contract wins include a £16 million deal with Microsoft in the US, and a contract for France's World Cup stadiums produced turnover of nearly £6 million. Mr Mackay said: "There may be one or two smaller deals over the next year, but we don't need any major acquisitions."



Francis Mackay, left, and Roger Matthews, Compass's managing director, celebrating its profit rise with coffee

Full-year losses fall sharply at Celltech

CELLTECH, one of Britain's leading biotech groups, is approaching profitability while continuing to achieve excellent results with its leukaemia drug (Paul Durman writes).

More than 90 patients have now been treated with CMA676 for acute myeloid leukaemia. Celltech said yesterday its latest results were "closely comparable" to earlier findings that showed 43 per cent of patients enjoyed a complete or major recovery.

Celltech has recently renegotiated its deal with American Home Products, its marketing partner for CMA676, to gain "a significantly improved worldwide royalty rate". In exchange, the British firm has surrendered its share of European marketing rights.

Losses in the year to the end of September fell sharply to £3.1 million (£12 million) because of the rapidly rising income from its antibody technology that other companies use to make their own drugs.

Avis buys out 3 Arrows

AVIS EUROPE, the car hire company, has bought 3 Arrows, a credit hire and non-fault claims management business, for £40 million. Based in Manchester, 3 Arrows provides car rental to motorists involved in non-fault accidents while their own vehicles are being repaired. 3 Arrows recovers the rental cost from the insurers of the party at fault.

Losses in the year to the end of September fell sharply to £3.1 million (£12 million) because of the rapidly rising income from its antibody technology that other companies use to make their own drugs.

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CHANGING TIMES

Equities run out of steam

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POP

THE TIMES ARTS

MUSIC
Steven Isserlis
— cellist of
the moment
PAGE 40



Nearly Christmas again. You remember? Peace on earth, goodwill to all men? Well, not in the Church of England, obviously. There, the faithful are bewildered, bothered or bewildered, depending on liturgical taste, by the spectacle of a right old ding-dong merrily on high.

And in Cloisterland, they don't come much higher than Westminster Abbey. No mere cathedral, this: it ranks as a "Royal Peculiar" and peculiar is definitely the word. As for ding-dongs, the battle at the Abbey between the Dreaded Dean and the Orrible Organist has been clangorous even by the standards of a Church that brought us such lurid entertainments as *The Loose Canons of Lincoln Cathedral* and *Tatchell v Carey: The Big Match*.

At least the Dean, Wesley Carr, and the Organist, Martin Neary, were well-matched opponents — since Carr's popularity in the Church of England is about as high as Neary's in the music profession — ie, minus 43 on a scale of one to ten. Just as Neary's position was fatally undermined by a spectacularly disloyal letter to *The Times* written by the adult mem-

Does 'peace on earth' include the Abbey?

bers of his own Abbey choir, pointedly praising the Dean, so Carr's most dangerous opponents turned out to be his own clerical colleagues, queuing up to denounce his "arrogance". Very strange, very poisonous, very Anglican.

So this bizarre rumpus has been fantastic fun for those who view the Church of England primarily as a supplier of low farce, tabloidesque scandal and Trollipian backstabbing, but a disastrous advertisement for the redeeming qualities of church music and Christian beliefs in general. Humility? Forgiveness? Off the menu at Westminster Abbey in 1998, I'm afraid.

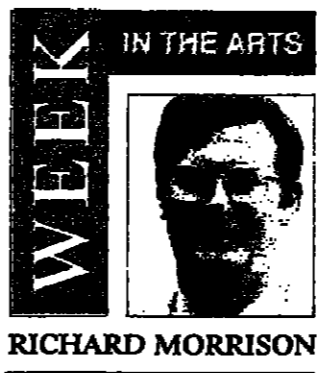
Of course, sublime music often goes hand-in-hand with vile behaviour. Bach was a money-fixated whinger. Wagner was a ghastrly sponger who treated his generous friends disgracefully. Most great conductors have been frightful tyrants; it goes with the banon. The opera world has more fat egos than fat ladies. And for sheer bitch-

ness in the workplace, an unhappy orchestra takes a lot of beating.

In normal circumstances that's all fine. It adds spice to the art. Indeed, one of the miracles of human creativity is the way that musicians who detest each other can go on stage and produce the most ravishing displays of harmony.

Church musicians, however, are supposed to act differently: to be pure and generous in spirit. That's hard enough. But many also encounter a problem rarely found in other branches of professional music. They have to work for people who resent their very presence. Namely, priests. The Battle of Westminster, for all its grandiose list of *dramatis personae*, is merely a replica of the mundane scraps that have occurred in hundreds of humbler churches since time immemorial, as clergymen have sought to stamp their authority on "uppity" musicians.

You can detect that conflict even in the edicts of the 16th-century



RICHARD MORRISON

Council of Trent, which demanded that geniuses such as Palestrina write less "showy" music for the Church. You see it surfacing again in the 17th-century Puritans' penchant for smashing up church organs. You find it chronicled beautifully in Hardy's *Under the Greenwood Tree*, in which a quintessential Trendy Young Priest, circa 1820, descends on a village and

tries to abolish the church gallery band — and with it a folk-music tradition stretching back centuries. And you certainly see it in the "happy clappy" movement of recent years, with evangelical priests banning "complicated" music in favour of three-chord choruses.

I don't blame such priests if they genuinely feel that "art" music is irrelevant to their style of worship. But we should recognise that their actions have repercussions in the wider world of music. The great Anglican cathedral and college choirs keep alive a huge repertoire of masterpieces — and do it alone, since the Roman Catholic Church has mostly allowed its musical tradition to lapse into decrepitude.

The cathedral choirs also serve as beacons of excellence on the British choral scene: they set standards that inspire thousands of amateur choirs. But most importantly, they are nurseries for prodigies. A disproportionately large number of outstanding adult singers, instru-

mentalists and even actors first learnt about the iron discipline needed to produce top-class professional performances from singing daily evensongs as young boys. And now, albeit belatedly, girls are getting the same opportunities in the more enlightened cathedrals.

There's a vital educational tradition — and one legal decision against one organist won't destroy it overnight. But the Abbey rumpus will make young musicians pause that little bit longer before committing themselves to a career in the Church. Goodness knows, there are enough disincarnates already: poor pay; strange hours; very limited social and cultural horizons. If the church authorities are now going to crack down on the few opportunities that exist for organists and singers to earn a little beer money by taking on extramural concerts and tours, even fewer good musicians will contemplate a life in cassocks.

The saddest thing about the Westminster debacle, however, was that it was all so uncompromising, so bitter and so public. As the exotically named Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle noted in his summary, had Carr and Neary been prepared to talk to each other, "it might have been possible to avoid the present unhappy situation with all its attendant publicity".

Wise words. But I can think of even wiser ones, from a carol that will be sung in the Abbey and every other English church in a few days' time: "O hush the noise ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing." Priests and musicians have at least one thing in common: they entered their respective professions because something noble, unworldly and powerful stirred their souls. Whether you call that impulse "idealism" or more poetically, "hearing the angels sing", it is the spark they must not let die when the going gets tough — because it is what singles them out as special people, as spiritual leaders in the widest sense. I wonder how often the angels have sung in the Abbey this past year. And whether anybody has been listening.



Melting under close scrutiny: Paul Clarke (the Snowman) and Drew McOnie (the Boy)

Walking on thin air

You will not find anything much better at Christmas. That was the opinion of a colleague when Bill Alexander's staging of Raymond Briggs's picture-story was presented at Birmingham Rep last year and, if she did not altogether speak for me, she certainly spoke for those with a taste for humorous whimsy and for balletably performed by cheerful fatties in white fur. Notwithstanding some offputting technical glitches, both parties made their appreciation evident at Wednesday's West End opening of *The Snowman*.

Only when carol singers gather onstage with an improbable array of wind instruments, or when airborne principals are giving voice to a ditty about the moonlit sky, do we hear the human voice. But Howard Blake's music never stops twinkling happily away, and the mime and dance are not exactly unfathomable.

All you need to know is that the Boy lives in a suburban house so awesomely ordinary — his aproned Mum at the ironing board, his pipe-smoking Dad before the telly — that a splattering of sleet would be something of an event. A snowman who comes to life, then, rates as high on the Richter scale as the H-bomb in

Briggs's celebrated *When the Wind Blows*.

The first half mainly consists of Drew McOnie's pleasantly relaxed Boy showing the title character — in Paul Clarke's performance a beaming John Mortimer lookalike transmuted into cotton wool — round his home. For the Snowman, this means playing with a sinuous, slinky cat, cooling his melting bum before a fridge that turns out to contain a dancing pineapple, coconut and half-peeled banana, and then tooling off like Mr Toad on a canary-coloured motorbike to alarm the local bunnies and badgers. The act ends with both Boy and the Snowman, paddling their feet high above a stage backed by a sky that prettily turns from orange to magenta.

But I suspect that mere paddling was not what Alexander had in mind when he asked his heroes to fly, and my suspicion that something was amiss was confirmed both by a painfully long interval and by curious lacunae in a fight-free second half.

This took the Boy and the Snowman to a continent that contained Father Christmas, his reindeer and a pair of penguins, and so may have been the Arctic, Antarctica, or possibly both. There may be more excitement when the technical problems are cured; but on Wednesday afternoon little occurred there except some desultory conjuring, improbably involving an Arabian snowman in a fez, and too much sub-*Nutcracker* ballet.

In the process, our Snowman loses a snowgirl to a cowboy and is understandably loath to be comforted by a snowwoman who looks vaguely like the late Edith Evans. But by then I was losing patience with a production that had itself lost narrative momentum and was less cute and funny than it apparently thought itself; so my main reaction was relief that the tweedy snowperson in the corps de ballet did not join his Chinese and American cousins in doing his own national dance. A jolly Scots reel by a chap dressed for a part in *Ghostbusters* would have been a delight too far.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Quick and the dead

THREE Irish plays about death might seem an uninviting prospect. But these one-acters, two by Synge, one by Yeats, are in their different ways as grippingly fascinating as anything else in town, and the performances John Crowley draws from his cast are outstanding.

What Synge's harshly tragic *Riders to the Sea* and his harshly comic *The Shadow of the Glen* share with Yeats's last play *Purgatory* is the assumption that the dead cast a heavy burden on the living. The ghost of a drowned man brings about the drowning of his brother; a man driven out of his wits in the back hills of Co Wicklow is a more vital presence than a living man: the crimes and follies of the dead keep their rest uneasy until more crimes, more foolishness, settle the account.

Riders bristles with enough rural Irishisms to explain why Joyce mocks it in *Ulysses*. But while it reads oddly, when performed with the steely conviction of the present cast the images that burst from the lines stick the speaker's experience of life unshakably into the landscape. Crowley's feeling for the life expressed can even do without words, so that when Mairead McKinley silently wrings her doomed brother's salt-stuff shirt, the bleak toil of island life is painfully evident.

The Shadow of the Glen concerns a wake that comically isn't, because a suspicious husband (Lalor Roddy) is feigning death to test his wife (McKinley) again, this time a gritty little person with an endearing habit of ending angry sentences with an outraged squawk). The dead man here is a fellow whose talk eased the loneliness of her untimely marriage, and she departs with a stranger (Stephen Kennedy) whose language charms her.

Purgatory, although very short and the least satisfactory of the three, nonetheless presses sorrow at the passing of great things into its tale of murder. Owen Sharpe's cheeky swagger makes a shrewd physical counterbalance to the memory aching in Roddy's voice.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Classics at Christmas



THE Christmas offerings from Dublin's mainstream theatres carefully sidestep pantomime, while making sure to provide seasonally light-hearted fare. The results are hardly challenging or deeply inventive, but make for reasonably good entertainment.

The Abbey's decidedly upscale Christmas revamp of Sheridan's *The Rivals* attempts to supercharge the play with acid-coloured costumes and hipper-than-thou sounds from the Divine Comedy. Brian Brady's direction of the piece is a substantially less riotous affair. Instead of nipping and tucking to keep the focus tight on Sheridan's caricatures and little comic sketches, Brady allows the play to meander far too much.

All this does, however, leave plenty of room for some extra-large performances. Pat Kinevane, as the dandified Acres, and Anita Reeves as Mrs Malaprop, a woman whose enormous, architectural gowns are matched only by her poorly co-ordinated mouth, both seize the comic opportunities firmly.

At the Gate, Cyrano de Bergerac is an even straggler outing than *The Rivals*. Costumes are not extravagant, and even Bruno Schwengl, who has produced some fine sets, works at well below his best with a stage that, for large parts of the evening, contrives to look both under-dressed and confused. For all that, however, Alan Stanford's direction, after a slow, rather aimless first half, delivers a thoroughly engaging version of the drama.

Stephen Brennan, like most of the cast, takes far too long to find his mark, but when he does becomes a profoundly affecting Cyrano. Donna Dem's experiments with Roxane have clearly not revealed what it was in this woman that touched Cyrano. But perhaps that is understandable enough, since the answer may not lie in Roxane. After all, the words on Cyrano's lips when he breathes his last are not "my Roxane" but "my panache".

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POP PROFILE

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Not the famous tortured artist syndrome: Tim Booth has found contentment in his relationships

The celebrated reappearing act

This time last year James were so out of fashion they seemed on the point of disintegration. Yet the end of 1998 finds the former indie champions in the middle of a huge stadium tour after a renaissance year which gave them their first No 1 album in a 15-year career.

There have also been hit singles with *Destiny Calling* and *Runaround*, while a remix of 1999's *Sit Down* scored all over again and saw them coveting recently on *Top of the Pops* with Robbie Williams. Their eagerly awaited new album is scheduled for April release and it promises to be as strong as anything they have ever done.

Lead singer Tim Booth is discussing this unexpected turn of fortune over a late breakfast at a converted studio in a former farmhouse in the heart of the Sussex countryside, where the band have spent two weeks rehearsing for the tour. He freely admits that the stories of James's near break-up are all true and has no problem with the suggestion that they are in line for "comeback of the year". Most artists offered such an accolade would insist that that they never really went away.

"We did disappear. We went to America and we didn't play here for three years so people had a right to be pissed off with us," he admits. "We had some very black days but we put out the 'best of album' and we turned a corner. It produced a wave of euphoria and it lifted us and the audience. We suddenly got a new lease of appreciation, which definitely fired us up."

It certainly did. The lacklustre James that made an unpropitious

Suddenly James are back from the indie graveyard. Nigel Williamson talks to singer and former wild man Tim Booth

return to Britain at the Reading Festival in August 1997 and the one that gave a performance of quite awesome energy at the Brixton Academy in April this year immediately after they had gone to No 1 might have been two different bands.

Somehow the reminder of their glorious past which the "best of" album provided captured the imagination all over again. "We are one of those bands that gets overlooked because as a frontman I haven't taken the big rock'n'roll loudmouth role," Booth says. "We've always crept up on people. A couple of the old songs sound dated but in the main, people were surprised how fresh they sounded. We write songs like German cars — built to last"

"We were steeped in the NME indie myth and then the indie police came looking for our blood," Booth recalls. "We took it very personally. We were stung by it. That's why we buggered off."

most successful bands in Britain, headlining huge venues such as *Atton Towers*. "We bought all that indie myth that playing stadiums meant you had sold out. So we went to America and the first gigs there were for 200 people. We needed that challenge because we didn't want to be like *Simple Minds* and *U2*. When we finally came back here, we had to prove ourselves again. We are at our best when our backs are against the wall."

Now the scene has changed, he says, and bands such as *Oasis* and *Pulp* have made it cool to play stadiums again. But there have been other more personal changes, too. In earlier years Booth's erratic behaviour was legendary. Wild-eyed and manic on stage, he became a leader for the lost and confused, a turbulent and troubled figure prone to depression and break-down, at one point joining a religious cult which espoused celibacy. Today he lives contentedly in Brighton with his new wife and his son Ben from a previous relationship.

performed before. It's really new for me, believing it will last or that I am allowed such happiness. I'll always be a neurotic person but I have never swallowed the idea of the tortured artist. The rock'n'roll myth is based on it and it is voracious. There is something fascinating about a person living their life on the edge in the public gaze. As a performer you feel this energy pulling you that way. It's what people want from you and it's dangerous. You have to be very strong to find your own centre."

Booth, who went to drama college with Ben Elton, has also branched out this year into acting with a role in Edward Bond's *Saved at the Bolton Octagon*. He is thrilled because he has been nominated as best newcomer in the *Manchester Evening News* drama awards. "In my student career I was in a few plays with Ben but I was no good because I had no confidence. I wanted to prove that I could do it, so I went to LA and retrained," he explains. Alongside his thespian tendencies, I can't help noticing that reading matter for the tour includes Simon Hilder's biography of *Ernoch Powell* and the new *Tom Wolfe*. So is this a new mature James we are now witnessing? "This is still a very wild band, believe me," he says. "As night creeps in, a transformation takes place." Faith restored in their rock'n'roll credentials, it seemed like a good time to take my leave.

James play Wembley Arena tonight, Manchester Arena tomorrow and Glasgow SSE on Monday and Tuesday

ROY HAYNES
Praise (Dreyfus 36548-2)
NOW 72, and with one of the most distinguished CVs in jazz — playing with Lester Young, Charlie Parker, Sarah Vaughan, John Coltrane and Stan Getz — Roy Haynes might be forgiven for resting on his laurels. His last three albums for Dreyfus, however, all document not only his propulsive, hand-sparking skills, but also his abiding interest in the work of younger players. Here, supported by the eccentrically punchy pianist David Kikoski, Haynes drives his youthful front line — cornet-playing son Graham, plus saxophonists David Sanchez and Kenny Garrett — through an intelligently programmed set. Past glories (Parker's *My Little Suede Shoes* in duo with Garrett) and present enthusiasms (a gospelly trio waltz

Ancient and modern

NEW JAZZ ALBUMS

through *Morning Has Broken*) all neatly demonstrate the effectiveness of Haynes's percussion philosophy: "Keep it moving, keep it crisp."

G. P. HALL
Steel Storms & Tender Spirits (FMR CD58-V0998)
THIS double CD, divided between the "steel storms" of guitarist G. P. Hall's electronic

soundscapes or jazz-rock group work and the "tender spirits" conjured up by his (generally solo) more contemplative music, provides the best exposition yet of his multi-faceted talent. His ability to move easily between fearsome industrial-noise abstraction, thundering rock beats driven by drummer Sam Brown, haunting jazz (often featuring the plangent trumpet of either David Ford or Andy Hague) and the most delicate of solo acoustic meditations influenced by flamenco would suffice to mark him out as a genuine original; his incorporation of a variety of additional textures and sounds, derived from the use of bows, battery shavers and the odd children's toy — not to mention eccentric tunings and customising of his guitars — makes him unique.

CHRIS PARKER

Lisa Verrico sees a golden future for the best of Britain's current crop of girl groups

A finger-lickin' taste of Honeyz

In the coming weeks, while the Spice Girls fight Fat Les for the coveted Christmas No 1 spot, keep an eye on the Honeyz. On Monday, the R&B-based girl group released a seasonal second single, *End of the Line*, which won't reach the top of the charts, but is likely to fare far better in the long run than the bulk of its high-profile rivals. An emotion-powered ballad, *End of the Line* is the follow-up to *Finally Found*, Honeyz's 300,000-selling debut which recently spent almost three months in the Top Ten. *End of the Line* may well have the legs to establish the Honeyz as

more than just the latest manufactured girl group. Like *Finally Found*, *End of the Line* has its hooks in the soulful vocal harmonies of band members Celena Cherry, Heavenly Abdi and Naima Belkhalid. Three years ago, the girls were brought together by First Avenue, the London-based management company which discovered Eternal, Dina Carroll, Michelle Gayle and Kelly Le Roc.

Twenty-one-year-old Cherry and 24-year-old Abdi were already part of a female trio conceived by First Avenue MD Oliver Smallman, while Belkhalid was signed to the same company as a solo artist. "Heavenly and I had been put in a group with another girl," recalls Cherry. "But the combination wasn't working. When Naima joined, everything changed. We had all known each other for years so we felt comfortable together."

West Londoner Cherry first met Paris-born Belkhalid, now 25, at Disneyland Paris. Straight from theatre school, Cherry had joined a girl group called *Illusions*, which performed five times a day at the park. "We were given a slot between the *Beauty and the Beast* shows," Cherry explains. "We had to sing songs such as *Everyone Wants to Be a Cat*. Just before I quit, I met Naima backstage after one of her gigs. I told her I was going home and to get in touch if she ever came to London."

Levine's inexperience with R&B proved to be a bonus. "If Steve had been a veteran R&B producer, our album might have sounded like an amalgam of his previous bands," reckons Cherry. "Instead we all learnt together." Levine's smooth production added an overtly commercial edge to a batch of songs co-written by the Honeyz with the likes of Brand New Heavies' collaborator Yoyo Okigbo and hip-hop influenced remix outfit Ignorantz. The ballad *Somebody to Love Me* was donated by Babyface, and *End of the Line* came from a demo by Australian Paul Beugard.

With Spice Girl Mel B having declared the Honeyz her pick of the current crop of British girl groups and the dance magazine *Touch* dubbing the band "big on make-up, short on clothes", a bright future seems assured. The only question is whether the Honeyz will bag celebrity boyfriends and follow in the footsteps of All Saints or adopt the less tabloid-friendly approach of the religiously-minded Eternal.

"We all believe in God and we feel it was fate which brought us together," says Cherry. "Musically, though, I don't think we have much in common with Eternal. I like to think our songs are a bit more on edge than theirs."

End of the Line is on Mercury Records



Honeyz: sweet harmony in R&B heaven — "We all believe in God and we feel it was fate that brought us together"

bruce springsteen

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"The unreleased songs from TRACKS are sometimes better than the ones he did release"
THE GUARDIAN

"Anyone who doubts his worth should try TRACKS"
SUNDAY TIMES

"There's scarcely anything here that any of his peers wouldn't have been happy to put out - and a good deal they would have been thrilled to see their name on"
MOJO

"... a captivating rock retrospective"
DAILY MAIL

COLLAPSE
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Already an established session singer and backing vocalist for the likes of Vanessa Paradis, Belkhalid had trained at music school in Paris and was determined to succeed as a solo artist. "I grew up listening to Edith Piaf, Charles Aznavour, Serge Gainsbourg and Ray Charles. My parents were jazz fans so I heard a lot of singers like Nina Simone," she says.

Lenny Kravitz

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THE TIMES
POP ALBUMS
Check out the best of the
POP ALBUMS OF THE
Meaty

POP ALBUMS

Check out the best of 1998

ARTS

TOMORROW

Hot tickets in Metro

POP ALBUMS OF THE YEAR: David Sinclair (left) and Caitlin Moran turn up the volume on their favourite tracks

Meaty beats manifest

Who took my breath away?

From the muddy wastelands of Glastonbury to giddy award shows everywhere, Fatboy Slim was ubiquitous in 1998. When he was not there in person, his big beat anthem The Rockafeller Skank invariably turned up on his behalf, providing the soundtrack to programme inserts and trailers all over the place, and in a year that failed to produce any significant new musical trends or movements, Norman Cook (for the Fatboy was him) was the nearest thing to an inspiration that we got. His aptly titled second album as a solo act, You've Come A Long Way, Baby (Skin), united pop, dance and rock fans under a single groove. Meanwhile, his exploits as a DJ were captured on the "mixed by Fatboy Slim" compilation On The Floor At The Bouzique (Skin), a blissfully propulsive collection including the best rap single of the year, Because I Got It Like That, performed by the irresistible Jungle Brothers.

Although big beat was viewed with suspicion by the dance purists (too rocky, too frivolous), it was the most fun I can recall having at the touch of a CD button in years, and never more so than on the Prepperheads' debut album, Decksandrumsandrockandroll (Wall Of Sound). An exotic cocktail of musical brio and comic wit, Decksand lent new artistic respectability to car chase/spy movie themes and rehabilitated Shirley Bassey thanks to a bravura performance of History Repeating.

Apart from Robbie Williams, who became Britain's undisputed King of Pop with the release of the canny I've Been Expecting You (Chrysalis), there was less joy to be found among the big names who deigned to put out albums that were not greatest hits collections. The long-awaited offerings by Massive Attack's Mezzanine (Virgin) and Alanis Morissette's Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie (Maverick) were shackled to lyrics which lacked even a glimmer of poetic grace.



"Ash punched a neat hole through the good-taste barrier with their explosive second album, Nu-Clear Sounds"

Madonna's impressive and massively successful Ray Of Light (Maverick) also succumbed at times to ponderous bouts of self-analysis, and although they put a brave face on it, R.E.M. are clearly not the band they were before the departure of drummer Bill Berry. Their ambitious but disappointing album, Up (Warner Bros) demonstrated how sorely Berry's ear for a decent chorus is already being missed. Ash, on the other hand,

gained an extra member in the guitarist and singer Charlotte Hatherley, and punched a neat hole through the good-taste barrier with their explosive second album, Nu-Clear Sounds (Infectious). The record's grungy, hard rock textures were spectacularly out of joint with the easygoing, pop sounds that dominated the chart in 1998, but singer and guitarist Tim Wheeler is clearly a first division songwriter no matter what idiom

he chooses to perform in. At the moment he is still at the youthfully rough and ragged stage, but I can see him developing into his generation's Paul Weller. Those who wince at such an idea are likely to feel no more comfortable at the thought of Gomez winning the Technics Mercury Music Prize with their first album, Bring It On (Hut), a result which polarised opinion more drastically than at any time since M People walked away with the award in 1994. Depending on your point of view, Bring It On was either an opportunistic forgery of American retro-rock or the first piece of work by a British act seriously to stand compari-

son with the grainy, bluesy genius of Beck. Personally, I agreed with John Lee Hooker, who said of Gomez's record: "I found no defects. I think they are very, very good." Another record which I played over and over was John Senfield's A Go Go (Verve), an album not only for connoisseurs of electric jazz-blues guitar playing, but also, thanks to the contributions of John Medeski, richly endowed with the kind of super-cool electric organ playing popularised a generation ago by Jimmy Smith and Booker T. Jones. With firm support from just Billy Martin (drums) and Chris Wood (bass), Scofield and Medeski explore their old-school R&B themes with a divine sense of understatement, providing a consistently reliable tonic for nerves frayed elsewhere by extremes of either dancefloor madness or bleak emotional angst.

There are no two ways about it: it's been a year as dull and horrifying as finding a brown tartan bathmat under the Christmas tree. New bands failed to come along, old bands failed to be any good, and the greatest album of the year is very nearly The Best Of Depeche Mode, a sign that generally means the water level in the River of Pop is deathly low and a great many of the pop antelope that lap its waters will become weak and die. Pulp were rubbish; Glastonbury was like paying to be on the Japanese game show Endurance; and Chris Moyles is breaking Radio 1 like a cruel child with a delicate human soul entrusted to his care.

Still, rare the municipal dump that doesn't yield a usable chair or two. And among the broken fridges and damp custard wedges of old Yellow Pages, there are glimmers of gold coin. The odd crown.

Album of the year, no contest, is Air's Moon Safari (Virgin). Not only do each of Air's songs sound as if they come from the sweetest year of your childhood; but they have all been played to death during trailers on BBC1. Once we get past Air, though, nothing is certain. Half of my albums of the year have sold by the skip-load: other are written by artists so commercially unsuccessful that they live in them. The former category encompasses both the Beautiful South's Quench (Go! Discs) and Catatonia's International Velvet (Blanco y Negro). They are brilliant pop albums, witty, chewy, warm and bright; but with two million copies sold between them, you know that. The same can be said of Garbage's platinum-selling Version 2.0 (Mustroom), pure, clean, edgy vodka-pop which revealed the wittily erudite Shirley Manson to be the most compelling female star since Courtney Love. Speaking of Ms Love, her comeback was an oddly muted

affair. Not musically — Celebrity Skin (Geffen) itself is a triumph: Fleetwood Mac with flick-knives; Belinda Carlisle as Joan of Arc. But with paranoid contractual restrictions on her minimal publicity events, the campaign fizzled out, and the album pretty much bombed. Shame.



Shirley Manson: Garbage's compelling female star

Small, wintry ballads, all lit up with fairy-light Bollywood strings. Back in the UK, Belle and Sebastian continued to be Britain's best-kept secret: imagine if Miss Jean Brodie's crème de la crème formed a band — neat, clear-eyed girls (and boys), articulate and well-read, but with spite, ambition and knuckledusters in their squeaky leather satchels. The Boy With The Arab Strap (Jeepster), their third album, continues their insurrectionaries-taking-over-the-school-play vibe, with plain little voices, shabby pianos, simple cello and the odd dot of recorder delivering songs of absolute arch genius. A similarly fuss-free ethos

ribbons Stephen Duffy's I Love My Friends (Cooking Vinyl): 13 songs as clean, plain and graceful as watching novice nuns wash their hair. John Barry's The Beyondness of Things (EMI) is Duffy's diametric opposite: as the man behind the James Bond themes, we know him to be the master of titanic, face-punching anthems. So it's no surprise that this, his first ever non-soundtrack album, is a sheet, unscalable cliff-face: a musical autobiography of a life well-lived. Similar century-sized anthems come from the Boo Radleys' Kingsize (Creation) which, among its superlative autumnal sorrow-pop, contains Song For A Dead Century — the song which is the only one in existence equal to being played at the stroke of midnight. New Year's Eve, 1999.

And so the final two; my absolute favourites of 1998 that are not by Air: Rufus Wainwright's Rufus Wainwright (Dreamworks), and Six by Seven's The Things We Make (Mantra). Don't be scared that you don't know who they are: neither did I until I heard them, and now I love them; so it could happen to you, too. Rufus Wainwright is a handsome, flamboyant Canadian who writes show tunes that Rodgers and Hammerstein would kill for, and sings them like a Thom Yorke weaned on Verdi. Six by Seven's The Things We Make is similarly excessive: they are the only band making sounds as well as songs at the moment. This is all white light and walls of spark and shrapnel: it will strip the skin off your tongue and leave you thinking of Radiohead's early live fire. I have a suspicion that, buried somewhere between Wainwright's pop era-hysteria and Six by Seven's hissing, sulphuric vents might be the future of music. But then, I thought that about Pusherman; and they're all on the dole now.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 (1) Ladies & Gentlemen - The Best of... George Michael (Epic)
2 (2) The Best of... M People (M People)
3 (3) I've Been Expecting You... Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
4 (4) Where We Belong... Boyzone (Polydor)
5 (5) Talk on Corners... Cars (Atlantic)
6 (6) One Night Only... Bee Gees (Polydor)
7 (7) Step One... Steps (Jive)
8 (8) Voice of an Angel... Charlotte Church (Sony Classical)
9 (9) Hiss... Phil Collins (Virgin)
10 (10) No 2... Mariah Carey (Columbia)

All the CDs reviewed on this page can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

Advertisement for HMV featuring album covers for All Saints: The Video, Cats, and Spang. Includes the text 'Gifts for all sorts at our price' and 'topdogforchristmas'.

Advertisement for HMV titled 'The Art of Music at HMV' featuring classical music albums by Martha Argerich, Andreas Scholl, Ian Bostridge, and Marcelo Álvarez. Includes promotional text: 'Get money off vouchers* worth £50 when you spend £20 now'.

LISTINGS

Messiah at the Barbican

RECOMMENDED THIS WEEKEND

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargie

LONDON

FOURTEEN ANNIVERSARY. The Nash Ensemble led by Marilyn Brubaker...

STATUS QUO. The seasoned rockers make a welcome return for an evening of their popular traditional fare...

MESSIAH. Catherine-Wyn Rogers and Mark Padmore are among the soloists joining The Sixteen and its associated orchestra...

DICK BARTON SPECIAL AGENT. Journey back to the 1940s with the famous old radio thriller brought to life by Phil Witton...

ELSEWHERE. BASINGSTOKE. The traditional Christmas pantomime is replaced by the first musical version of Chaucer's lovely romp...



Pianist Louis Lortie plays Schumann in Edinburgh

EDINBURGH. The pianist Louis Lortie joins the Royal Scottish National Orchestra under Owen Ansell...

THE KING AND I. Whistle a happy tune with the hit musical The King and I...

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London. Houses full, returns only. Seats at all prices.

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies. NEW RELEASES. THE BOYS IN THE BANDS. Uncomfortable and powerful Australian drama...

ARTS

Giving it some neck

MUSIC: Cellist Steven Isserlis is celebrating his 40th birthday with a host of projects, says Hilary Finch

Next weekend the luminous outline of a Woman in White may well appear once again in a moonlit street in London. Wilkie Collins is to make an unexpected visit to the Wigmore Hall on Sunday...

absurd, which manifests itself in an obsession with the Marx Brothers. His hard against the dark spectre of permanent stage fright and of a vast six-figure loan he has to pay off...



Life class: Steven Isserlis at home - 'You have to talk to people, not shout at them'

Alive on the ocean wave

The inspiration of the evening was that of the collectors for the RNLI waiting in their seafaring yellow jackets for the audience to come reeling out of a sea-inundated Symphony Hall...

True to spirit of Elgar

ward rolls the great LSO/Elgar roadshow. Wednesday saw the London Symphony Orchestra and Sir Colin Davis recreate two of the most influential recordings...

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THEATRES

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Large vertical advertisement on the far right edge of the page, partially cut off.

Bad hair day at the Mail

It is such a trivial matter that it ought not to be so irritating — but what is it about Melvyn Bragg that makes him the target of so much mockery, often malicious and written with such attention paid to that luxuriant lead of hair?

An I suffering from a sense of humour failure? How Lord Bragg styles his hair is of no consequence whatsoever, but journalists are supposed to entertain as well as inform, and Bragg's hair may well be a fascinating subject.

But it isn't really, is it? The story demonstrates a streak of triviality in the British press that would once have been unthinkable and which is all the worse for being so personal, as if drawing attention to an affliction. Andrew Neil, the former Editor of *The Sunday Times*, was another victim of hairism.

Why did all the writers who dump on Bragg (or Neil) enter journalism? Was it so they could get to Fleet Street and write about a man's hair, for pity's sake? Getting at people by emphasising their personal defects is also dangerous.

The Daily Mail got a lesson in just how dangerous last year when it published an article about Mo Mowlam's "dramatic weight gain", a euphemistic phrase for asking the nasty question of why had she become so fat? Still more woundingly, she was compared by the columnist Lynda Lee-Potter to "an only slightly effeminate Geordie trucker".

Ms Mowlam then revealed the reason — she had been suffering from a brain tumour, had been on steroids and a course of radiotherapy. Enough said, and Ms Lee-Potter at least had the grace to write a profuse apology.

Yet for the *Daily Mail* Bragg's hair has been a particular obsession. It returned to the subject yet again this week when for the second time it devoted more than a page — and 16 photographs (yes, 16) — to Bragg's hair, all decked out with wince-inducing jokes.

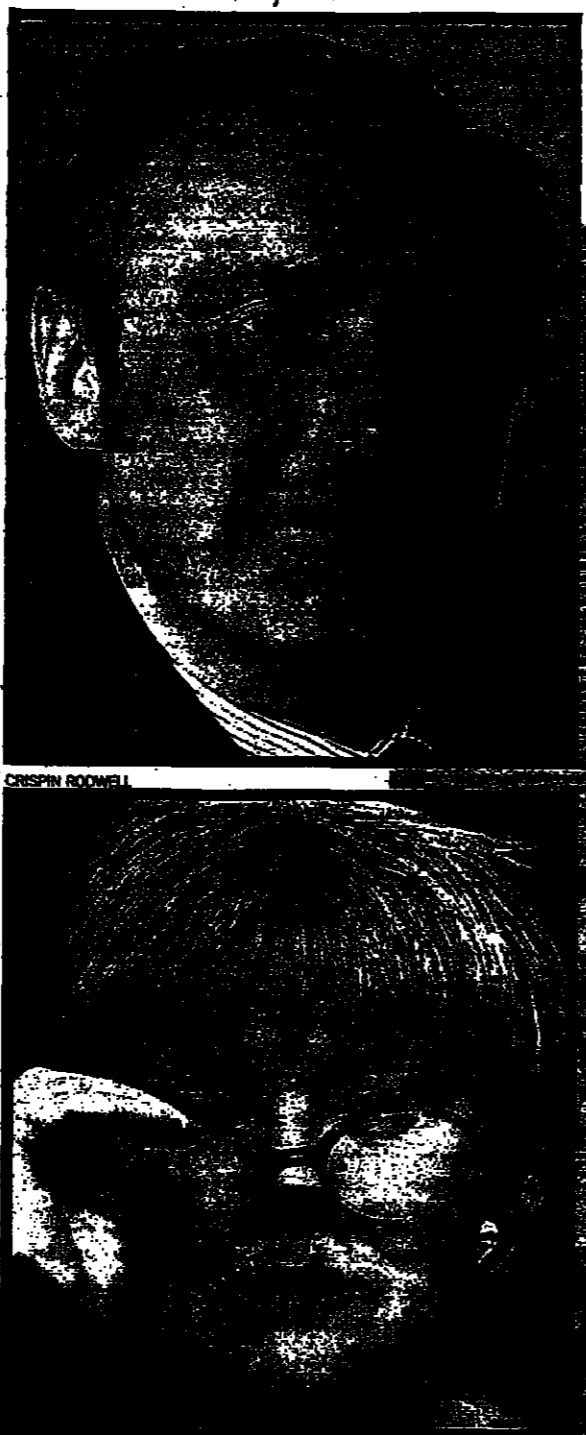
"The Hair-editory Peer," said the headline. "That's Baron Melvyn Bragg of Wiltshire." Oh dear.

It has been a hairy week — forgive the *Daily Mail* pun — for Bragg since he delivered his maiden speech to the House of Lords 11 days ago (see page 43).

The speech was a success. Matthew Parris in *The Times* described it as "actually interesting" and *The Daily Telegraph's* Quentin Letts as "not uninteresting". From the most cynical observers of Parliament, that was praise indeed.

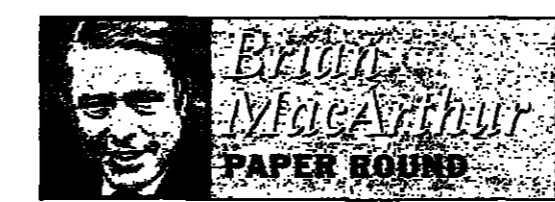
Yet even Parris and Letts could not resist gentle digs at the hair. "What an amazing hair-do it is," wrote Letts, "swirly at the sides like the princess in *Star Wars*, while at the front it has a long overhang worthy of Wilma in *The Flintstones*." Parris was briefer: the hair was styled à la James Dean, he thought.

It was Letts's description that prompted a *Guardian* Pass notes columnist next day (a decision its Editor, Alan Rusbridger, may have regretted when he was placed next to Bragg at a Saturday night dinner party). Offering "Lord Bragg's hair", in *Guardian*



Crispin Rowell

Why is the press so obsessed with Melvyn Bragg's mop?



Paul Dacre, top left, the Editor of the Mail, which has made wounding remarks about Mo Mowlam and Melvyn Bragg

an ironic mode, as a subject of "real significance", Pass notes opined: "It's a creation. If it had been entered for the Turner Prize, it would have won by a mile."

I care about the treatment of Bragg and his hair for two reasons. The first is that we share the same barber, Ian Stewart at the Savoy, (who says it is a no-nonsense hairstyle for a busy man who is as comfortable with it as he is with himself). The other is that I have known Bragg for years and admire his many talents.

He is a polymath who runs the biggest arts department outside the BBC, who chaired *In Our Time* on Radio 4 yesterday morning (which dealt with human and cultural rights) and who interviews the author Walter Mosley on *The South Bank Show* on Sunday night.

He published *On Giant's Shoulders* earlier this year and delivered a new novel, *The Soldier's Return*, to Hodder this week. When he was removed from *Start the Week*, there was an instant "Bring Back Bragg" campaign, from the Right as well as the Left. He's back.

His politics have been consistent — he has supported the Labour Party through thick and thin and is now seriously committed to working from within for the abolition of the House of Lords — which is why he turned down an offer of the mastership of

St Catherine's College, Oxford. He is also guilty, as I can attest, of personal kindnesses to people who could never hope to return the favour. And, of course, the wretched man's a multimillionaire.

That recital of his accomplishments immediately suggests why Bragg attracts so much flak. He has a Midas touch and is too successful. He provokes envy and jealousy. And that, in an increasingly insular Britain, means that he must be

brought down. So if his achievements cannot be faulted, let's get him for his hair. It is absurd, pathetic, demeaning, petty-minded and a waste of space. The great popular editors of the past must be turning in their graves.

Come on guys, give the man a break. It's a small world, and the trouble is that I know that the *Daily Mail* article was suggested by a woman, and she's a friend, too. No more stir-fries in Hampstead.

How to make your mark on The Archers

Michael Leapman on a product placement success

The BBC has strict rules on product placement, banning those who seek to inveigle high-profile programmes into mentioning their cause. But *Radio 4's* soap opera, *The Archers*, has become a special case, slotting the causes of poorly funded charities and voluntary organisations into its storylines.

For low-profile organisations, a mention in the media can make a huge difference, as the British Horse Society (BHS) discovered when its "Root Out Ragwort" campaign was referred to in Ambridge.

Organisations such as the BHS exist chiefly to gain public support for their causes but because they cannot afford conventional promotion, they rely heavily on free publicity.

For groups focusing on rural and agricultural issues, *The Archers* is an obvious target, though never an easy one. The BHS press officer, Nichola Gregory, was delighted

that a press release she sent to the programme about the dangers of ragwort to horses was followed a few months later by a reference to the campaign in the script. "It does our profile no harm at all," she admits. "We didn't know it was coming. *The Archers* are very secretive about storylines."

And she had a second reason to celebrate. One of the main characters in *The Archers*, Shula Hedden, recently took a share in a riding stable and decided to take the BHS qualification as an assistant riding instructor. This time Ms Gregory knew in advance because the producers consulted her over technicalities.

"If I'd written it myself it couldn't have been better," she enthuses. "I'm now thinking of what I can do with *Emerald*."

Vanessa Whitburn, editor of *The Archers*, says she and her team are inundated with letters and calls promoting causes. Many respond to issues in the programme but they are often too late because scripts are written three months in advance and episodes recorded a month before they air.

At the moment Marjorie Antrobus is having trouble with her eyesight. We've been contacted by Guide Dogs for the Blind, Talking Books and the Talking Newspaper Association. Sometimes these contacts spark ideas but very few get into the programme.

Farming is central to the plot, so the National Farmers' Union takes an interest. A spokeswoman says: "They come to us for guidance on points in their scripts. A programme like that can get farmers' problems across to the public and we make sure they're aware of our position on issues."

The Country-side Alliance was pleased that its march on London last March featured in the programme. "It even included a recording of one of the actual speeches," Brian Macpherson, the chief press officer, reports.

The Archers is allowed to bend the BBC rule on endorsing specific brands or enterprises because rural issues form an integral part of its plots. When Tony Archer switched to organic farming, the Home Doubleday Research Association, which advocates organic methods, was much involved. Friends of the Earth also scored a success when a character mentioned one of its recycling guides.

But producers have to be sure not to come down too heavily on one side of the argument. "There are sceptics about organic methods in Ambridge," says Ms Whitburn, "and we do let them have their say."

She believes the programme benefits from interaction with special-interest groups. To maximise their chances of success, Ms Whitburn advises PR people to familiarise themselves with the programme and to be aware of the lead time between writing the scripts and airing them.

The Archers is allowed to bend the BBC rule on endorsing specific brands or enterprises because rural issues form an integral part of its plots. When Tony Archer switched to organic farming, the Home Doubleday Research Association, which advocates organic methods, was much involved. Friends of the Earth also scored a success when a character mentioned one of its recycling guides.

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Price is right for Hollick

The *Mail on Sunday's* Night & Day magazine, under new editor Christina Appleyard. It is clear that Lynn Barber — recently given lunch at The Ivy by Roger Alton — has cemented her place as the fêted interviewer on its *Living* section, which has also seen a change of editor, MacDonald.

Shooting on a shoestring

THE investigative team of *The Observer* is going to *The Express*. Headed by Michael Gillard, it has been wooed away by Chris Blackhurst, *Express* deputy editor at a collective cost of £250,000 a year. The reason? Insiders say the team — it includes Jonathan Calvert, David Connell and Lucy Johnson — was unsettled by Roger Aton, the new *Observer* Editor who, not unreasonably, asked cost-benefit questions. Aton says: "I hope they have the freedom to investigate that we gave them."



Maggie Brown's

Andrew Graham

ANDREW GRAHAM, Master of Balliol College, Oxford, and since February a Channel 4 director, is indignant about the Independent Television Commission (ITC). First, he is a great fan of *News at Ten*, which it failed to defend. Secondly, he is cross at its sluggishness in filling current board vacancies at Channel 4.

"I was being barked my board meeting papers before the ITC had even confirmed my appointment," he says.

STEVE BARNETT, senior media lecturer at the University of Westminster, caused a small stir with his study in *The Times* of the content of the early evening news bulletins by ITN and the BBC. He found that ITN had dumbed up, not down, over the past five years, adding more serious and foreign news. He is now discussing with ITN, the BBC and the ITC the idea of a greater analysis of news. Let's hope Barnett gets the funding he deserves.

The knife is being taken to TV production budgets, reports Meg Carter. Will it be a cut too far?

Welcome to the future: high-volume, low-cost programme-making reliant on the latest technology and eager, young talent willing to take on any role. This approach, which fuelled the development of cable and satellite TV, has been synonymous with newer channels operating on a shoestring. Until now.

Next month LWT launches The Lab, the first dedicated low-budget production unit to be set up by a terrestrial broadcaster. LWT aims to develop new techniques to make programmes more quickly and more cheaply — initially, to meet growing demand for programming from non-terrestrial and new digital channels; eventually, to produce more efficiently for mainstream TV.

"The idea is to pool LWT experience of different ways of making programmes into a single department," says Ralph Jones, managing editor of The Lab. "Technology is changing fast and the market is demanding a broader range of shows, from 24-hour daytime TV at one end of the spectrum to such top-end, quality drama as *ER*."

The so-called digital revolution will dramatically increase the volume of programming required. At the same time, it has led to the development of lightweight digital cameras capable of shooting broadcast-quality footage at a fraction of the cost of traditional equipment.

"In the old days, a bank of kit might have cost £1 million — it made sense to mollycoddle it," says Jones. "In the 21st century, TV cameras will effectively be given away. It's already happening with radio. Digital audio tape machines are now as cheap as other equipment — anyone can afford to make a radio programme now."

This high-volume, low-cost approach already is established practice for original material produced by cable and satellite channels, whose critics claim that "low-budget programme-making" really

Price is right for Hollick

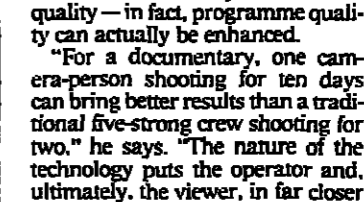
THE investigative team of *The Observer* is going to *The Express*. Headed by Michael Gillard, it has been wooed away by Chris Blackhurst, *Express* deputy editor at a collective cost of £250,000 a year. The reason? Insiders say the team — it includes Jonathan Calvert, David Connell and Lucy Johnson — was unsettled by Roger Aton, the new *Observer* Editor who, not unreasonably, asked cost-benefit questions. Aton says: "I hope they have the freedom to investigate that we gave them."



The high-volume, low-cost approach is fast becoming established in TV

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The high-volume, low-cost approach is fast becoming established in TV

units. "These enabled us to make four half-hour shows in a day with editing time significantly reduced," Pollitt says. "We record four half-hours in-studio over a six-hour period to make it cost-effective."

Jones is now pioneering a similar approach at LWT. He is recruiting a team of about 30, all to be trained for a variety of production roles across a number of different programmes. This reverses the traditional approach where teams are assembled on a programme-by-programme basis.

Jones insists that if cheaper, lightweight digital cameras are used in the right way, viewers will find it difficult to notice any difference in quality — in fact, programme quality can actually be enhanced.

"For a documentary, one camera-person shooting for ten days can bring better results than a traditional five-strong crew shooting for two," he says. "The nature of the technology puts the operator and, ultimately, the viewer, in far closer contact with the subject matter. It's a raw style of programme-making with a real sense of immediacy."

Maybe. But many believe there's a fine line between the editorial imperative and the persistent drive to cut costs. "A key question must be at what point these techniques are used purely as a way of cutting people," says Shaun Williams, chief executive of the producers' association PACT. "The danger is that all this becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy."

Maverick with a conscience

Felix Dennis is the magazine mogul who cares. Raymond Snoddy reports

Felix Dennis, the multi-millionaire magazine owner and former hippy, made the decision as he was dialling the relief fund for victims of Hurricane Mitch in the Caribbean. "Shall I give £5,000?" he pondered. "Shall I give £10,000? And then I thought: you rotten bastard, you had better give more than that."

Instead of completing the call, Dennis phoned an old pal, David Arculus, the recently appointed chairman of IPC magazines, with "a really daft idea". How about persuading the British magazine industry to donate double-page advertising spreads to the cause of hurricane relief?

Arculus allowed himself to be persuaded. The next morning, Dennis arrived unannounced at the National Magazine Company, where Terry Mansfield, its chief executive, offered space in all his magazines to the Central America Hurricane Appeal.

Dennis — still remembered as one of the three editors of *Oz* magazine who were acquitted of conspiracy to corrupt and pervert the morals of the young in the Sixties — has now persuaded more than 300 magazines, including *Hello!* and *Private Eye*, to take part. Even Condé Nast, which decided the ads would not be appropriate for *Vogue*, will carry them in *House & Garden*.

Some of Dennis's own editors also suggested that the ads might not be appropriate for their titles. "I

used the trick I don't often use," he says. "I stood there silent, looking at them and, in the end, they said 'Maybe we can squeeze it in.'"

The ads are running as Dennis heads off for six weeks in his house on the island of Mustique. But now he is chatting above a bookshop in Goodge Street, Central London, in what is undoubtedly the strangest publishing chairman's office. An artist friend turned it into "the cave" — an office that combines leather on floor and ceiling with prehistoric-style cave paintings. On a stairway, there is the famous picture of the editors of *Oz* in their schoolgirl outfits.



Now there are streaks of grey in his beard, and his waistline shows evidence of the 23 kitchens he owns in seven houses worldwide. But

Dennis, 51, is still inclined to break into blues songs to illustrate his musical past. He dropped out of art college and, through *Oz*, found the love of his life — magazines. The breakthrough came the night that he saw young people queuing for a Bruce Lee movie. His first magazine, *Kung Fu Monthly*, ran for 13 years and was published in 17 countries.

"The money just poured in," says Dennis, who has created a private magazine empire which is expected to have a turnover of more than £75 million next year. The Dennis Publishing stable includes titles such as *Mac-User* and *Microscope* as well as *Auto Express*, *Stuff* and *Maxim*.



Like a hurricane: Felix Dennis, who started with *Oz* magazine, is now taking on the US with *Maxim*

"*Maxim* in the US is virtually all I can think about," says Dennis. Launching *Maxim* in the US, everyone told him, was nonsensical. It was too loud and too British, and there was no market for politically incorrect magazines for young males in America. "So I did what I always do. I took my \$15 million (£9 million) and did it," says Dennis. It is already selling 800,000 and has been, he says, the most successful magazine launch in the US

for 25 years. Dennis wants to push circulation towards one million before the American launch next year of EMAP's young men's title *FFM*. Already there are plans for *Maxim* TV in the US and a mail-order book company.

Dennis leaves the day-to-day operation of Dennis Publishing largely to Abigail Ramsey, the managing director, and Ian Leggett, the finance director. Dennis believes the company will float, but before

then there is likely to be a concentration on a smaller number of titles which can be turned into international magazine brands. Clearly *Maxim* would fit that bill.

"I would rather own *Reader's Digest* or *National Geographic* than 30 other magazines," he says. "I think the enormous spin-offs that have resulted and can further result from ownership of a world brand are more interesting than launching another magazine."

Mail launches new tabloid

A FREE morning tabloid for Londoners is to be launched by Associated Newspapers, publishers of the *Mail* titles and the *London Evening Standard*. Press *Gazette* reports that it will be edited by Kim Chapman, former Editor of the *Reading Evening Post*, who has been working on the project since last month and has already recruited the nucleus of a staff. Simon Barnes, the advertising director of *The Mail on Sunday*, is to be managing director of the paper, which will be given away at Underground stations. It is expected to make its debut next month. The last new title introduced by Associated was *The Mail on Sunday* in 1982. Ian Pay, chairman of the company's new products division, says: "We don't launch titles willy-nilly and we are very, very committed to this one."

speed of any other British company. By this yardstick the most credible achievement is that of Walkers Crisps, which came fourth despite spending only £8 million. Its most popular commercial was the one featuring the legendary footballer Sir Stanley Matthews — made by the agency BMP DDB which, ironically, has just lost the account to Abbott-Mead Vickers.

TV ADVERTISING revenue in Russia has fallen by 80 per cent since the rouble was devalued in August, says a report in *Media Week*. One result is that the nation's favourite show, the daily soap opera *Santa Barbara*, has had to be scrapped because the state-run network KTR cannot afford to pay for it. The soap had been a fixture for eight years and drew ten million viewers a night. KTR has asked the Russian Government to help it to bring the programme back — without success.



SIR RICHARD EYRE, who last year stepped down as the National Theatre's artistic director, may soon direct his first TV commercial, reports *Campaign*. He has been signed up by New Directions, a company established last August by Arnold Pearce, formerly with Saatchi & Saatchi. Pearce aims to sign people who have never directed commercials before and says that Eyre has agreed that he should represent him.

BRITISH companies' expenditure on public relations is beginning to pick up, according to a survey reported in *PR Week*. This year they spent seven per cent of their marketing budgets on PR, compared with six per cent last year — but well down on the 10 per cent in 1994.

FOR the second year running, British Telecom has produced the most memorable TV commercials, according to the annual chart in *Marketing*. Based on questioning viewers about which ads they remember, the chart puts BT well ahead of second-placed McDonald's. The result is scarcely a surprise given that BT, through its agency Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO, spends £136 million a year on TV advertising — more than double the

MY REPORT last week that Roger Laughton is to retire from his executive roles at United News and Media gave only half the story. As I reported, John Willis will take over as chief executive officer of United Productions, but I omitted to mention that Malcolm Wall steps into Laughton's shoes as chief executive officer of United Broadcasting and Entertainment. My apologies.

MICHAEL LEAPMAN

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The traditional newsroom as immortalised by Hollywood. Even in the digital age, journalism remains a profession in which practitioners have little time for theorists, however well-qualified

Media studies, what's that?

It is open season for attacking media studies as a university subject. Encouraged by new figures from the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services showing that only 1.5 per cent of media studies graduates become journalists, critics of the subject go on to caricature its classes as places where students sit slumped in the back row watching movies or soaps, and doubtless eating popcorn. This, it is suggested, effectively prepares them for a life of clerking or cooking.

In the Seventies, sociology was in the firing line. As the sociologists matured to academic respectability, they were no doubt delighted to welcome a new subject to take all the flak — media studies. There is plenty of prejudice and not a little philistinism around, not to mention a total failure to distinguish between various branches of what is referred to generically as media education. For that, higher education must take its share of the blame, for its confused badging of courses and its self-interest in providing burns for its seats. It is also responsible, in some cases, for promoting the deception that studying media theory increases a student's chances of securing a job in the media.

The fact is that few universities provide professional journalism education intended to prepare students for work in the media industries. These few are distinguished by the fact that their students are expected to make media products — newspapers, radio and television programmes, websites. They provide the facilities to allow their students to do this. A high proportion of the teaching staff are former media professionals, and the students all undertake work experience in the media. Ancillary course content required by the industries, such as media law, is taught. Mine is one of those uni-

Peter Cole defends a derided subject and Melvyn Bragg, below, begs television companies to give graduates a break

versities; most courses in media studies cannot match those criteria. But they do not claim to, and that does not make the subject worthy of derision. There is a clear distinction between studying how to "do" journalism and studying the products of journalism. And here, understandably, school-leavers, choosing a university course, and their teachers, can be confused. The student decides that he or she wants to be a journalist; the teacher recommends a media studies course and three years later,

the student is disappointed to find that media employers do not find this the best route into journalism. Some are considerably more negative than that. Editors and those who run radio and television companies are usually looking for recruits who have learnt how to write, research, report, interview, edit, before they are taken on. It is the journalism courses that focus on these skills, setting them in a context of analysis and consideration of the ethical issues. The problem, and the cause of much

ignorant pillorying of media studies, is the grouping of a range of subjects under one umbrella. The Higher Education Funding Council, for example, groups all these courses as "communication and media studies". This covers both vocational journalism courses and purely theoretical media/communication/cultural studies courses. We live in an age in which the media are all-pervasive. Politics is spin; corporate communication is the bedrock of business life; popular culture embraces

all; issues of media ownership and regulation, bias and globalisation affect us all; and there is increasing concern about the effects that media products have on media consumers.

To sneer at the study of all this, at best, perverse. This is the study of culture — our culture, today's culture. And while there are a great number of courses in media studies, and they vary greatly in quality, the very best take some of the ablest students around. Nobody attacks English as a university subject because fewer than 1 per cent of graduates publish novels. Art history is not derided for the paucity of works by its graduates in the Tate. The novel and the painting may be studied without fear of sneer; not so the media, the effect of which on society is so significant.

Universities are guilty of adding the word "media" (and variations on the theme) to any number of courses, on the cynical — and worryingly accurate — assumption that these will aid recruitment. They should be more explicit about the nature of the courses, and the reasonable employment expectations of students joining them. They should be more open about telling students that studying the media and working as a journalist are not the same thing. Equally, those who edit, manage and run the media should not be so defensive that they dismiss any non-journalist who dares to study the media as not entitled to take a view because they haven't worked as a journalist. The stand-off between media professionals and media academics is silly, arrogant and ignorant; and depressingly British. They are not in the same business. But they have much to say to each other.

'TV discards so much talent'

THE WORLD of broadcasting has a desperate need to offer real jobs to media students.

Many well-educated graduates plummet into disillusionment, too many of them as runners, favour-beggars and team-makers, draining their enthusiasm as short-term, short-paid and short-changed media skivvies. They are well trained and full of ideas, but the majority are dumped and wasted.

More than 30,000 media students come out of our universities each year, and many other students see the media as a possible career. In my opinion, they are absolutely right.

Television, in particular, is set to become an ever greater factor in all our lives. Sky has just introduced at least 150 new channels; QNdigital has 30; and there are cable channels everywhere. Young people see that this is the future and they want to be part of it.

There is, however, a problem. How are media students to be translated into work? When we train people and then employ them — as we have done in science, for instance — we turn out the best. In science this century the UK has won the biggest number of Nobel prizes per capita in the world.

Now we are intensively educating media students, and they respond with vigour, but the completion of education by real experience is scarcely available. Students have to be enabled to

go into work which is viable, reasonably well-funded and, above all, shown on air so that it can be discussed and criticised. Only then can their talents flourish.

But how is it to be done? It is to the television companies I turn. Carlton, Granada, Scottish, United, Sky, Channels 4 and 5 and even the commercial arm of the BBC should jointly set up an investment fund of some £50 million a year.

This would enable young people aged 22 to 35 to spend three years making programmes across the board: entertainment, drama, comedy, soaps and documentary. These could be shown on one channel, perhaps called the Opportunity Channel — the OC. It would become cult viewing among contemporaries of those making the programmes.

And what is the return for companies? A very good deal. They would have some ownership of the programmes, the right to sell advertising and sponsorship and, above all, a golden investment in proven talent.

We could then, at last, challenge the United States' world television supremacy. All we need is an injection of creative, enlightened, commercial self-interest.

Extracted from Lord Bragg's maiden speech in the House of Lords

The author is Professor of Journalism at the University of Central Lancashire

Relish for scandals in the air

Scandals in the media always make for entertaining reading, particularly when they involve a media other than your own. Newspapers love to puncture the pomposity of TV types, and television has been known to get on its high horse about the activities of some newspapers.

Many will be interested next week to see how much Carlton Communications will be fined by the Independent Television Commission (ITC) for its failures in its Colombian drugs documentary, *The Connection*.

A sizeable fine is virtually guaranteed, together with undertakings about future behaviour, because of a programme that an independent investigation found should not have been shown to the public in the form it was. The only positive note for Carlton was the finding that none of its executives intended to deceive viewers or was aware that certain scenes in the documentary were faked. In the meantime, allegations have rocked another UK media industry — commercial radio — without generating quite as many headlines. This time it is the regulator, the Radio Authority, which is under the cosh. A senior member of its programming and advertising staff, Janet Lee, has been questioned by the police in connection with a visit to India under a Commonwealth Relations Trust bursary in 1996. The issue under investigation is whether she received flights from one of the authority's licencees.

More importantly, the entire membership of the authority is under attack for how it has carried out its most important function — awarding licences. A former employee has accused it of choosing the winner for the East of England regional licence and then changing its mind and awarding the licence to a different group. These matters have all been aired by *Newsnight* on BBC2 after a four-month investigation.



The authority also has to consider how to respond to a BBC document on the future of Radio 2. It reveals that the BBC, which has produced a mission statement about "seeking to serve all our audiences in the UK", says it has begun to reposition itself to attract audiences in the 35-54 range for Radio 2 and is happy to dump older listeners.

At the moment the Radio Authority seems battered by the attacks, and it is vital that it demonstrates that it is squeaky clean. Important business issues are at stake. The members of the authority have the power to turn base metal, in the form of a licence application, into gold, through a licence worth £10 million or £15 million. Every time it awards a licence it can create many enemies from those it disappoints.

In fact, the present allegations do not appear to have much substance. It is expected that police will find that all Ms Lee's flights were properly paid and accounted for, and an independent inquiry is unlikely to find any wrongdoing in the award of the East of England licence. It is not in dispute that at one stage members favoured a company called *Esprit* but finally chose another called *Vibe*, which was backed by the Daily Mail and General Trust. The report into the affair should be published as soon as possible.

What will not go away, though, are allegations of capricious decision-making and the fear of larger companies that they are discriminated against. The authority still has some way to go to reveal what strategy underlies its decisions. At least next week it can raise its eyes from its internal troubles by submitting its response to the government Green Paper on media convergence. It will express concern about moves by BBC Radio to imitate commercial formats. It will add that if publicly funded networks regard competing with commercial services as a prime objective, it is difficult to argue that such services should remain in the public sector.

EUROPEAN BUSINESS WEEKLY

EUROPEAN TAX IMPACT

How the EU veto flare-up will explode on Britain

Read all about it — while you can: this week's issue of *The European*

Read all about it — while you can: this week's issue of *The European*

Death of a clot on the landscape

Bad management, a Maxwell launch and too few good journalists doomed *The European*, says Peter Taylor

It was James Cameron, that doyen of foreign correspondents in the Fifties, who observed that the *News Chronicle* had expired from "journalist thrombosis" — by which he meant "a healthy circulation impeded by clots". *The European*, which passes away almost unnoticed this week-end — like a mummified old aunt in a bedsit — never had a robust circulation. But it managed its fair share of clots.

In retrospect, *The European's* Maxwellian ancestry might have doomed it regardless of journalistic enterprise. Long before Captain Bob went on his final voyage, there was an undeniable feeling around Fleet Street that the creature was the devil-child of a madman. Some of my closest journalistic colleagues nevertheless signed up.

Ian Watson, the engagingly cynical Glaswegian who was deputy editor of *The Sunday Telegraph* when I was foreign editor, used to complain: "I've had another call from Bob, and I keep telling him 'Noo Bob, noo noo'." But Wattle finally succumbed to Maxwell's blandishments and, through astonishing application, produced something that was recognisably a news-

paper. We can fast-forward here, except to note that subsequent editors took the paper downmarket — sometimes with hilarious results. My minor part in the drama began in 1994 when a new man at the helm, Herbert Pearson, asked me to be his assistant editor. The plan was to go upmarket, but a couple of things were immediately clear.

First, the management of the paper was more disengaged than any I had previously encountered. In my view *The European* suffered from poor management to its dying day, but this chapter was probably the nadir. At one point an executive told me to cut out laughter in the newsroom. I told him the staff could wear red noses for all I cared as long as they did the job.

What was also obvious, however, was that with some notable exceptions, journalistic talent was thin on the ground. Everyone seemed to speak six languages, but few could write a story in any of them. We still claimed modest successes, such as a MORI poll — picked up by all the nationals — which showed that most people on the Continent were opposed to a federal Europe.

A former editor, Charles Gar-side, returned, and the paper moved from the rump of the old *Daily Mirror* headquarters to a glass penthouse on the top floor of the ITN buildings.

Do you know that the stucco is peeling?
Do you know that the heart will stop?
From those yellow Italianate arches
Do you hear the plaster drop?

The basic problem, inevitably, was circulation. All newspapers cook the books to show results in the best possible light, but *The European* deserved a couple of Michelin stars. As far as I could make out, real circulation was then 100,000 — half of it in the UK, and the remainder dusted lightly across Europe. The then advertising manager told me gloomily that *USA Today* had greater market penetration in France and Germany.

What the paper could never bring itself to recognise was that continental Europeans were not terribly interested.

Europhiles on the paper said it was because we were seen as anti-Europe; Eurosceptics, such as myself, argued that it was because we

were not giving complacent Brussels bureaucrats a hard enough time. Either way, a solution might have been found in the European diaspora to the English-speaking world. America — whose own papers hardly touch Europe — was a missed opportunity.

It is ironic that Andrew Neil's *European* — the most professional job of the lot — should have seen sales slip to 70,000. It was a mistake to concentrate on business, and publication on Monday with a Friday deadline was a disaster. The beginning of a new week renders analysis of the past one redundant.

Anyway, there will be a decent party, and if *The European* over its eight years served no other purpose than as a refuge for journalists we must be grateful that rich men still aspire to be press barons. I suspect that tonight the tireless news editor, David Mellon, will play the part of Bejeman's nurse:

She moved the table of bottles
Away from the bed to the wall;
And tiptoeing gently over the stairs
Turned down the gas in the hall.

Challenge to...

Delay and ch...

Adjusting dete...

Law Report De... Sub-contract...

'Even now it hurts to think of Ed'

Panorama is bringing a personal touch to the issue of suicide, says Carol Midgley

Four years ago Edward Morris, the younger brother of the BBC presenter Juliet Morris, took his own life by throwing himself from the roof of a school on which he used to play as a teenager. He was 24 years old. Since then the Morris family has suffered the agony of trying to reason why a fit, young, university-educated man could come to believe his life was no longer worth living.

For most of that time Morris, anchorwoman for *The Travel Show* and *Here and Now*, has found it difficult to speak publicly about the pain of her brother's death. But her quest to find an answer to the tragedy will culminate on Monday in a one-off *Panorama* programme in which she investigates the phenomenon of suicide among young men.

It is the first time that a presenter for *Panorama* has been chosen solely because of their private experience of the subject matter, and it comes as the BBC tries to strengthen its commitment to "signature journalism", where viewers are drawn by correspondents and presenters they know and trust.

At a time when populist docu-soaps are also driving producers to seek new directions for serious factual programmes, Morris, who has never worked with *Panorama* before, will bring a new, empathetic touch to the grandfather of documentaries. "I knew right from the beginning, when Ed first died, that I wanted to do something about this subject," she says, "not necessarily to tell my own story but to understand more about why these things happen."

In the programme, Morris talks to the parents of three young men who committed suicide and to two men who attempted to kill themselves but survived. "Emotionally it was very difficult to do," she says, "but in terms of knowing what questions to ask, it was much easier because they were the questions I have been asking myself since Ed died. There can never be a complete answer — you are still left with an utter sense of waste — but you can understand more and learn how to spot the signs."

The events leading up to her brother's death were, she discovered during her research, very similar to the cases she focuses on for *Panorama*. After leaving Hull University with a geography degree, Edward had found himself without a job and was unsure about what direction to take. Morris explains: "He was out of work, had no money and was living in a flat

with his girlfriend. I didn't know what I wanted to do either when I left university and I just thought Ed needed some time. But he must have spent a lot of time alone in that flat feeling useless and guilty about not having sorted his life out.

"He was a nice, gentle person and he never mentioned depression, but when I look back now I can see changes that I just thought were a phase. His character did change, and he would snap at little things. He put on weight and slept a lot which, apparently, are classic signs of depression. He didn't leave a note but we know that he suffered some kind of breakdown in the four or five days before his death."

The cases profiled on *Panorama* include a 22-year-old unemployed man who hanged himself after a row with his girlfriend, an A-level student who took an overdose two days after his 18th birthday (leaving a note saying he couldn't cope with adult life), and a 25-year-old man who obtained a first at university but killed himself while suffering severe depression.

The suicide rate among young men has doubled in the past 20 years and men under 35 are four times more likely to kill themselves than women of the same age. They are also more likely to use "final" methods such as hanging or a gun.

The programme asks whether the modern age — in which many men are still unable to talk about their feelings, and face more competition from women in a world where their roles are no longer clearly defined — breeds feelings of low self-esteem.

"In the old days, men used to leave school, go straight into work, be breadwinners, and their lives were pretty pre-ordained," Morris says. "Men were the providers, they were in control, but it is not so clear-cut now. Women are more empowered and men, it seems, have become more vulnerable. It is an accumulation of events in a relatively short space of time which appears often to lead to suicide. You might lose your job, have a cash crisis or a row, and it can take only one tiny trigger to push you over the edge."

Morris says the programme aims to dispel two myths — that suicide only happens to drug addicts and that people who talk about suicide won't go through with it. "It's not true," she says, "they do."

Peter Horrocks, the *Panorama* editor, says: "This is the first time that we have had a presenter whose private family life was so connected to the subject. The audi-



The BBC presenter Juliet Morris with Carol and John McCabe, who appear in *Boys Don't Cry*, talking about the suicide of their 22-year-old son, Lee.

'His death leaves a big hole that can never be filled'

ence knows Juliet and, knowing what she has been through, I think that will help to tackle what is a very difficult subject."

Morris says: "It is a subject that has a stigma about it but it helps to tackle these subjects if you are a familiar face. The pain of bereavement is so strong. Even now, it really hurts when I think about Ed. Making the programme has been therapeutic — I had the irrational thought a couple of times that I wanted to kill myself to be with him and I found that was actually a very common feeling. But ultimately you are left with the utter futility of his death. There is just a big hole that will never be filled."

● *Panorama*, "Boys Don't Cry", will be screened on BBC1 on Monday at 10pm.

No joke to the Holy Joes

THE supposedly legendary reputation of the British sense of humour took another knock this week when Whitbread, the brewer, withdrew a poster ad for its Heineken lager brand after complaints from the Church of England. One of its three new posters featured a cartoon Joseph emerging from the stable to declare "It's a girl", illustrating the new Heineken slogan "How refreshing. How Heineken".

That's all. There was no religious imagery, you couldn't even see his face. But still it was branded "tasteless" by the Church of England and "offensive" by the Roman Catholic Church in such papers as *The Express* and *The Sun*.

Whitbread claimed to be surprised by the reaction, and for once we can believe the advertiser. It conducted its own consumer research in advance, which found that people thought the ad funny and not irreigious.

It's hardly surprising. You are likely to find a lot worse on a "humorous" Christmas card in WH Smith. The slogan is designed simply to evoke a wry smile, and shift a few six-packs of Heineken.

So shame on an "alarmed" Whitbread for not being a bit braver. It has pledged to withdraw the ads, not because of consumer complaints but because of a little sensationalist tabloid coverage.

Coming in the same week that a poll found Heineken's laddish target market didn't give a stuff for a traditional Christmas, it shows just how out of touch the Church is with its disaffected congregation. But it also provided a reminder that it still wields some power.

With the Independent Television Commission also revealing that 175 people have complained that the new IKEA commercials making fun of our Englishness are "racist", I wonder just who all these complainants are.

Is it really right to pay attention to such a tiny minority of viewers? Why should there be such a great disparity between what can be said or shown in advertising and what can appear as editorial? It's time the ad industry went on the offensive to protect one of the few industries where we're generally regarded as being best in the world.

DENTSU, the world's largest ad agency brand, has an extraordinary 40 per cent of its domestic Japanese market. But it has long been a sleeping giant overseas. So this week's announcement that it is negotiating to take a minority stake in the venerable Leo Burnett shook up the global ad industry.

Dentsu has never managed to compete on a global stage to a level commensurate with its status. Over the years it has tried a partnership with Young & Rubicam, not without some success in Asia. A joint venture with the then Eurocom followed in the early Nineties, but it was dissolved after three years.

Then came the acquisition of CDP, the British agency that had, arguably, been the best in the world during the Seventies and for most of the Eighties. It was a decade too late. The big talents had long since left CDP, as had much of the client base. The agency is still in decline, a shadow of its former self.

So, with a flotation due in Japan within the next two years, it was always likely that Dentsu would attempt to forge another partnership.

But unlike its Western rivals, Dentsu is renowned for its long-term view on investments. Its failure to establish a more powerful international presence is only partly due to its poor choice of partner. It also suffers from the notorious reluctance of big Japanese manufacturing companies to award their advertising accounts to one agency worldwide — or even regionally. This is partly caution, and partly because Japanese manufacturers historically operated under licences in local markets.

Leo Burnett is an entirely different entity. It is a genuinely global agency of 200 offices in 75 markets, with bedrock clients such as Kellogg's, Pillsbury, Procter & Gamble, McDonald's and Philip Morris — the last three of which are also Dentsu clients in Japan.

It grew in the classic American way, going where its clients wanted it to be. But it has stayed private, which denies it the funds available to big rivals in the publicly quoted Omnicom, Interpublic and WPP groups and, more recently, Young & Rubicam.

To carry on competing in the premier league globally, it knows that it must invest in areas other than ad agencies, particularly direct marketing and media buying. Only last month a proposed global media buying deal with the MacManus group fell through in embarrassing circumstances.

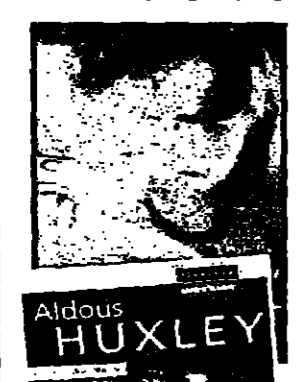
Like several of the other Procter & Gamble agencies, it needed to do something globally. The unexpected nature of its new partner immediately puts pressure on rivals such as Grey, MacManus, Saatchi & Saatchi, Cordiant and Havas.

Expect more deals soon, but whether those Japanese clients will automatically come Leo Burnett's way remains to be seen.

● Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of Campaign.

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN THE TIMES

Millions of free books for schools



Today *The Times*, with *The Sunday Times* and Walkers crisps and snacks, offers you the chance to take part in Britain's biggest books giveaway with our Free Books for Schools promotion. Its aim is simple: to help schools to replenish their libraries so pupils can read more books and expand their imaginations and curiosity.

either 100, 250 or 500 tokens. The books are suitable for ages five to 16 and are divided into approximate reading abilities from key stage 1 to key stage 4, and P1 to S5 in Scotland.

THE TIMES SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

This form must be completed only by school teachers. To get your free books for schools kit to participate in the scheme, complete full details of your school in block capitals below and send form to: Free Books for Schools, Registrations, FREEPOST (LES 004), Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 7BR. Closing date February 28, 1999.

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Phone _____ Fax _____
Our nominated member of staff is _____
Position in school _____
Signed _____

For information purposes only:
1. Please state your local education authority
2. Please state the number of pupils at your school

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Collins logo and promotional text: "DON'T FORGET, REGISTER BEFORE DECEMBER 31 AND YOU WILL RECEIVE 250 STARTER TOKENS FREE"

CHANGING TIMES

GROWTH IN ADVERTISING BY INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

Year	No of advertisers	% on yr % increase	Total spend \$000	% on yr % increase
1998 (Sep-Dec)	27	750	190	6,287
1998	22	608	78	2,954
1996	419	243	8,758	1,042
1997	597	282	12,854	1,465
1998 (Jan-Aug)	570	282	11,577	1,377

WHILE the Internet is possibly the most hyped and fastest growing medium of the moment, it still has to turn to media of old to make itself known.

In fact, it is the oldest medium of all, newspapers, which is the favoured advertising vehicle for internet service providers (ISPs).

New figures released by CIA MediaLab show that the national dailies are the most popular advertising medium for ISPs with 36 per cent of total spend. Business magazines accounted for 26 per cent, while radio and outdoor advertising were lowest at 6 per cent and 1 per cent respectively.

Ads in the print media illustrate how the Internet is marketed both as a leisure product and as a business tool for consumers.

There has been a dramatic growth in the overall scale of ISP advertising. In 1994, 17 companies spent a total of £190,000 on advertising internet services in the UK. By 1997, about 600 companies were dishing out a total of £13 million.

BT's Internet services currently run advertising campaigns across most media, including the Net itself, with some emphasis on the specialist consumer magazines and technology newspaper supplements.

Clearly, this exposure in the old media is driving the uptake of the new media: there are now more than two million home connections to the Web, discounting the many people who gain access through their workplace. The internet analyst DataMonitor predicts that this figure will rise to 8.7 million by 2003.

MediaTel's online media information and analysis service is accessed via the internet at <http://www.mediatel.co.uk> (0171-439 7373)

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Queen's Bench Division

Challenge to decision not yet made fails

Ex parte Amnesty International. Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Mr Justice Dyson and Mr Justice Auld. [Judgment December 9].

sought interim relief by way of injunction and/or stay, to prevent any cancellation or discharge decision and/or its implementation.

His Lordship also assumed that the court had jurisdiction to grant a stay pending the hearing of the leave application.

Under the new regime, the plaintiff had the benefit of ringfencing general damages, and depending on the like-for-like set-off, settlement or an award might be fruitful in a sum less than the sum of the CRU certificate.

Mr John McNell for the plaintiff, Mr David Price, solicitor, for the defendant.

Mr Justice Dyson and Mr Justice Auld agreed.

Section 11 of the Civil Evidence Act 1968 provides: "(1) In any civil proceedings...

So the instant facts Lordship had no doubt that to use the doctrine of abuse of process so as to prevent the defendant from having re-heard with such new evidence as he sought to adduce, the issue of his guilt would be cause manifest unfairness.

Delay and change in system justifies strike-out

McCarthy v Redfern Ltd. Before Mr Daniel Brennan, QC. [Judgment November 1].

The writ was issued on June 29, 1994 and the statement of claim served on September 2, 1994.

Whatever be his view of the true damage; (iv) his only remedy in the case where a small sum was alleged by him to be due, or was awarded, because of malingering or gross exaggeration, was to appeal against the certificate; and (v) there was a new appeals procedure.

On January 10, 1995 the defendant paid £2,500 into court.

On January 10, 1995 the defendant paid £2,500 into court. Under the previous system, acceptance or a trial award of that amount or less would not have involved any CRU payment.

REGINA v Secretary of State for the Home Department. Ex parte Nassir.

The court should be wary of applying an over-sophisticated approach to deciding whether the Home Secretary had erred in concluding that an asylum seeker had not submitted a fresh claim for asylum following the rejection of his original claim.

Whether fresh claim made. [1998] QJ 768. There was a danger that if the matter was subject to too close an analysis, a matter which was essentially for the discretion of the Home Secretary would be encumbered by structures which were too rigid to deal with the many cases which the Home Secretary had to consider.

Adjusting determination of fair rent

Queensway Housing Association Ltd v Chiltern, Thames and Eastern Rent Assessment Committee.

where potential tenants of the property could reasonably be expected to live instead, than no deduction felt to be made under section 70(2).

The local distortion created by the American School in Metropolitan Properties, also brought against their tenants, Miss N. Porter and Mr B. Ridgeway, and (ii) Mr Michael Dakin against determinations by North Western Rent Assessment Committee.

As the court was asked to consider a determination made by Merseyside and Cheshire Rent Assessment Committee set aside by agreement between the committee and Whinnor Estates Ltd.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES. No. 1204 of 1998. IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION...

1998. In accordance with Article 63, OJ L 14/88. In accordance with Article 63, OJ L 14/88. In accordance with Article 63, OJ L 14/88.

Scots Law Report December 11 1998 House of Lords

Lord Justice-Clerk (Lord Ross) and Lord Justice-Clerk (Lord Ross) dissenting. [The Times January 28, 1997; 1997 SC 59]

Therefore, any element of double insurance which might be involved in giving effect to BT's claim was not a sustainable commercial objection to the success of that claim since practical considerations of premium would be affected by the right which the insurer had under the contract.

It was of crucial significance in the present case that a distinction was made between nominated sub-contractors on the one hand and other subcontractors on the other in the terms of the insurance provided by BT under the contract.

Lord Lloyd, Lord Mustill, Lord Cooke and Lord Hutton agreed.

Sub-contractor has duty of care

Lord Justice-Clerk (Lord Ross) and Lord Justice-Clerk (Lord Ross) dissenting. [The Times January 28, 1997; 1997 SC 59]

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THE TIMES
EDUCATION

Your average student knows his Homer — Simpson, that is

Behind the many column inches devoted to the Oxford students who are refusing to pay their tuition fees is the implication that the old days of campus revolution are just around the corner. Some vice-chancellors have been predicting as much for several years now.

What they and other commentators forget is that the student body has changed beyond all recognition during the dramatic expansion of higher education. With almost a third of sixth formers and thousands of older people going on to university each year, the average student is just that: average. Revolution is bound to be even more of a minority taste, especially when the competition for graduate jobs increases the pressure for good results.

A MORI poll in last week's *Times Higher Education Supplement* illustrated the change perfectly, and showed how little understood it is even in some academic circles. The role models of the Class of '98 are not Swampy or Barry Horne, but Zoë Ball and Robbie Williams. They are reading Nick Hornby's *Fever Pitch*, not Marx or even Jane

Austen, and watching *The Simpsons* in preference to *Newsnight*.

Almost 600 undergraduates took part in the poll and, in the vast majority of cases, their tastes turned out to be determinedly lowbrow. Only 2 per cent of women and no men had read anything by any of the Brontë sisters; *EastEnders* was the daily fare of nearly half of all those interviewed.

We should not be surprised: Zoë Ball and Robbie Williams possess the boy/girl-next-door appeal that makes them representative of a youth culture which has less and less time for the grand gesture. One of the *THES*'s academic commentators thought that Boadicea, rather than Ball, would have been a more suitable student heroine; another mused wistfully on the contrast between Williams and Bob Dylan. If they had noticed the new breed of student, they certainly were not going to accept the change as irreversible.

Perhaps a new cause will come along to ignite the campuses, but it does not seem to be tuition fees. Not only has the demand for places survived the introduction of fees with barely a blip, but

there has been little sign of militant action on campuses. A national day of action saw a handful of stage-managed sit-ins, but when the London School of Economics proposed even higher fees for postgraduates, only 30 turned up to protest.

A former schoolmate of one of the Oxford refusniks wrote dismissively this week of the fees protests there, probably speaking for many of her colleagues when she argued that the action was pointless as well as morally suspect. Non-payment campaigns will doubtless spread to other universities in a small way in the new year, but most students appear to acknowledge that they agreed, however reluctantly, to pay their fees when they accepted a university place.

Romantics who hanker after Sixties-style student protests will find such resignation depressing, just as many gradu-



John O'Leary

ates from previous eras will despair of the cultural icons chosen by their successors. But all of this came with the territory of a switch to mass higher education. A relatively affluent elite of 8 per cent of young people, with fast-track careers virtually guaranteed, is bound to think and behave differently from the 30 per cent who are struggling financially and worrying about their prospects.

In most respects, expanding higher education has been a success. There is well-founded concern about the quality of a minority of courses, but it is easy to exaggerate the extent of that loathsome phrase "dumbing down". The *THES* poll provided some ammunition for the sceptics: more than half the students could not spell "hereditary" and almost as many made an error in the dates of the Second World War. But all the evidence suggests that standards at British universities still

compare favourably with the rest of the world.

We may have had to rethink some long-cherished notions of what constitutes a university, but there have been individual and communal benefits. Many more young people are able to continue their studies and not a few older ones are making up for lost time. The jobs market may be correspondingly tougher, but graduates are still better off than those who finish their education at 16 or 18. They earn twice as much, on average, as those without qualifications and are far more likely to be in work — a trend which can only accelerate with the march of technology.

Government-sponsored research published this week also showed that expansion has paid off for the economy — something which was in doubt after the last wave of universities was established in the Sixties. The consultancy firm Business Strategies attributed higher productivity and increased spending power, at least in part, to the deeper pool of highly qualified workers emerging from universities and colleges.

The report sought to reassure intending students that their employment prospects are still good — regardless of a possible recession — and the heightened competition for jobs that more places must bring. Total employment is expected to grow by no more than 0.5 per cent a year, but all of the net increase — 1.5 million jobs — will be in work requiring degrees or diplomas. But in the midst of the good news lay further clues to the reasons for duller campuses. Today's students have their feet on the ground because they know that mass higher education also leads to wider variations in employment.

Eight out of ten participants in the *THES* survey said that they went to university to improve their job prospects, even if that was not their only motivation. But Business Strategies confirmed that graduate jobs now cover a multitude of occupations, many of which would not have been considered by the veterans of Grosvenor Square. Only by holding back the widening of educational opportunity, which has taken place throughout the Western world, could the utilitarian tide have been resisted.

Why US parents think British is best

Unlike the American system, our schools offer discipline and tough exams, says Victoria Fletcher

Madonna has cavorted in stockings, stilettos and basque on stage and courted controversy off. So when it was revealed that the pop icon had put her daughter Lourdes down to attend a top British independent school, eyebrows were raised. The decision appeared to contradict everything that a self-respecting rock queen stands for.

The school, Cheltenham Ladies' College, would offer her daughter tradition, strict rules and an academic foundation for the rest of her life. It was also a safe choice.

Then, when it was reported within weeks that another American, Michael Jackson, had put his son Prince down for the British independent school Stowe, the question on everybody's lips was: what is wrong with American schools?

Their choice of schools is unusual because very few Americans send their children to be educated in Britain. Of the 7,600 overseas students in independent British schools in January 1998, only 10 per

cent were from the United States and Canada. The reason for this is that independent schooling does not have the same status or appeal in America as in Britain. Because American schools are paid for by local taxes, affluent areas offer extremely high levels of education for which most wealthy Americans are happy to settle.

America also has a large selection of independent schools which offer an education equivalent to Britain's top independents. The fees are comparable and the facilities offered put many British independent schools to shame.

Gillian duCharme, the Headmistress at Benenden, the independent girls school in Kent, worked for 19 years in America's private-sector schools. "What American independent schools offer is quite extensive with incredibly good facilities, especially at the schools in New England," she says. "These aren't perceived as schools for dropouts and they achieve very successful results. You would be stunned to see some of the libraries. They are



Sex and drugs v tradition and strict rules may have led Madonna to reject the American school system in favour of Cheltenham Ladies' College (Photomontage)

more like those to be found at British universities."

Many independent schools in America are coeducational. Their prosperity comes from the massive funding from alumni, which they receive. Schools such as the Phillips Andover Academy also offer vast scholarship funds for bright children. Every year, the school gives \$1 million in bursaries and it has a number of children from the deprived areas of the Bronx and Brooklyn in New York.

"You couldn't get a wider range of students than at these schools," Ms duCharme says. "And there is

"The American image of Eton and Harrow, and the uniforms they wear, is a strong pull"

none of the snobbery about independent schools which can be found in Britain."

In America there are great fears of the widespread drug problem that is seeping into schools. But Miss duCharme thinks that the lure of uniforms and strict rules in

Britain may have clinched the nation's latest recruits. "The American image of Eton and Harrow, and the uniforms they wear, is a strong pull. Schools in America do not tend to have a uniform, or, of course, traditional British values," Dick Davison, the deputy direc-

tor of the Independent Schools Information Service, says. "Most overseas students who choose British schools do so because they are British. They have high standards of discipline, which are not available elsewhere."

"Also, the integrity of the exam system is respected worldwide. This, in turn, is a route through to the British university system, which is seen as one of the best internationally."

Two thirds of overseas students stay on to study at universities here. Many American presidents have spent time at Oxbridge, too.

And British schools also offer children of the rich and famous protection from the paparazzi and the temptations of city life.

But just how far Madonna and Michael Jackson will set the trend for other American children remains unclear. Such high-profile pupils may attract attention, but they could deter more staid, middle-class parents.

Mr Davison is open-minded, however: "These two new pupils cannot be anything but helpful in the raising of awareness about British schools. They highlight British education to a world audience."

The demands of the supply teacher

It is not difficult to imagine the disquiet when, as may happen to many young children several times a year, they scramble into class to confront an apprehensive stranger armed with an entirely new set of methods and standards.

In most cases, though, supply teachers are a necessary evil. Almost all pupils prefer consistency and stability; those who are prone to bad behaviour at the best of times are particularly susceptible to changes in routine. And since children spend up to 25 hours a week in the close company of their class teacher, the teacher becomes an authority figure of immense significance, especially if the children's home life is unhappy.

As a supply teacher, you may learn of your day's surrogacy only three quarters of an hour before school starts. Having made the breathless journey to Bash Street, there is the queue for the photocopyer. On the assumption that you are then able to navigate the labyrinthine corridors of a careworn Victorian institution, and find your classroom, it is time to take the preliminary test — the matching of 30 names to 30 faces — without which you may be obliged to perform Joyce Grenfell impersonations for the rest of the day. "You with the green jumper, keep your hands to yourself, please" is not an effective admonishment, particularly in a school with a uniform.

A great many schools struggle heroically and successfully in the face of urban deprivation, chronic underfunding and

Relax and develop a sense of humour, advises Paul Mills

the perpetual curricular revolution. Given the levels of stress under which they work, staff in these schools are often remarkably supportive towards visiting teachers, who rush into and out of their day with relative impunity, sometimes unwittingly transforming a painstakingly regimented class of children into disorganised mutineers in the space of a few hours.

It is unfortunate, then, that the most recent change to the curriculum, the national literacy project, has complicated the problems encountered by the supply teacher. There used to be advantages to your status, beyond the ability to leave at 3.45pm, never to return.

Primarily, there was surprise: children bring to school their curiosity for the new, and as they sat before you wondering what you were made of, you were at liberty to be somebody different for the day, somebody powerfully inscrutable, who wouldn't discriminate between the antagonists and the angels. When you produced a guitar at the end of the day, who were they to guess that you could play only *Yellow Submarine*? When you made a joke, how could they know it was

your stock in trade and was thinner than school gravy when repeated ad nauseam?

Some of this still holds true, but the enforced implementation of the new project has imprisoned the timetable within a framework that a supply teacher finds very hard to penetrate. During the daily literacy hour, a class will split into five ability groups, to perform one of five tasks to be rotated throughout the five days, so each pupil performs each task (differentiated by ability level) once a week.

The planning sheet is as intricate as this description implies. If the children miss a day because their teacher is absent, the whole system is thrown into chaos. The hapless substitute is then expected by the project to work closely with one group of readers, while four fifths of the regiment engage themselves diligently and independently in literate endeavours. Which eight-year-old, under these circumstances, would not investigate something more entertaining than, say, the rules governing the spelling of the sound "ee".

Going into the unfamiliar can be scary. The only solution is to develop a thick skin and a duck's back, for children can smell anxiety. The key is to relax in the face of adversity, laugh at danger and take each threat to your authority and twist it into something benevolent. Alternatively, you could try something relatively stress-free. Lion-taming perhaps.



Paul Mills: "You develop a thick skin and a duck's back"

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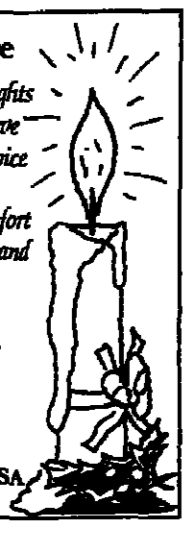
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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

A Christmas Message
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POSTS

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The Head of Commissioning Learning Products will have executive responsibility for commissioning and endorsement of all Ufi learning products, will lead a team of commissioning staff, and will report to the Director of Learning Operations. The successful candidate will have a record of success at senior level in commissioning or producing learning materials, educational software, multimedia products or broadcast material in a commercial, education, publishing or broadcasting environment.
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The Ufi is seeking to appoint a team of Sector Commissioning Managers. Reporting to the Head of Commissioning Learning Products, they will have responsibility for a specific sector of Ufi learning products, eg IT, basic skills, management, retail and distribution, automotive. They will identify the learning needs of the sector, commission learning materials in appropriate media including ICT based media and manage the process to delivery. They will make a significant contribution to the effective development of Ufi. Candidates should have a record of success in one or more relevant sectors and/or media; gained in an education, publishing, software or related environment.
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Please Note: Deadline for receiving interested applications is 18 December 1998.

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SWIMMING

Warneke in mood for assault on records

By CRAIG LORD

Generous prize-money has lured a top-class entry to the European short-course championships...

And Dirk Lange, coaches at the University of Bath and Hamburg, where he trains with Sandra Voelker...

Judo on road to recovery

John Goodbody on why Britain has reasons to be cheerful after trauma of the Olympics

British judo is climbing back on its feet. It has taken a long time for the sport to recover from the trauma of Atlanta...



Fairbrother in action at the Olympic Games in Atlanta. Photograph: Marc Aspland

The German was far too experienced a competitor to believe that Kingston would have been anything but exceptionally eager for the bout...

Although Fairbrother has won the three contests between the two, Allan has had a consistent year...

BOWLS

England call on new-look squad

By DAVID RYAN JONES

The unfortunate timing of the Atlantic Rim Games, which are to be played outdoors in Cape Town...

SPEED SKATING

New breed provides challenge for Gooch

By MEL WEBB

Nicky Gooch, Great Britain's leading short-track speed skater, will have his credentials thoroughly examined in the European Cup...

EDUCATION

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Students aim to make the grade



Michael Aylwin retraces the academic steps of leading players and previews an inspirational rugby event



Famous five: Lawrence Dallaglio, left, Gregor Townsend, Robert Howley, Thomas Castaignède and Paddy Johns are all university products

Most people recall their days at university with great affection and, on the rugby field, this *joie de vivre* translates itself into vibrant expositions of a running game. It means that, at the top end of the university circuit, the rugby is delightful to watch and liberating to play. If, in the past, university rugby was the definitive finishing school for a first-class player, it has suffered with the advent of professionalism. The top players are now largely lost to clubs, yet the fact remains that ten of the England squad that beat South Africa on Saturday graduated through the ranks of student rugby and the British game is full of internationalists who enjoyed a similar schooling. Better still, there has been a perceived upturn in the university game over the past year, enough, certainly, to encourage Bob Reeves, the director of rugby at Bristol University and the student representative on the Rugby Football Union (RFU). "A number of initiatives are being adopted," Reeves said. "Some of our English universities, for example, now compete in a league programme on Saturdays with the under-21 teams of various first-class clubs."

A TEAM TO TEST THE FIVE NATIONS' BEST

Derrick Lee (Heriot Watt University and Scotland)

Xavier Garbajosa (UPS Toulouse and France), Dennis Hickey (Dublin University and Ireland)

Gregor Townsend (Edinburgh University and Scotland), Will Greenwood (Durham University and England)

Thomas Castaignède (UPS Toulouse and France), Robert Howley (Swansea University and Wales)

Back row: Eric Peters (Cambridge University and Scotland), Richard Hill (Brunel University and England), Lawrence Dallaglio (Kingston University and England)

Second row: Denny Grewcock (Manchester Met University and England), Paddy Johns (Newcastle University and Ireland)

Paul Wallace (University College, Cork and Ireland), Jonathan Humphreys (University of Wales Institute, Cardiff), Andrew Lewis (Swansea University and Wales)

HOW THEY LINE-UP FOR THE TIMES TROPHY

The seven group winners and the best runner-up (decided on points difference in the match against the group winners) qualify for the quarter-finals. Group matches will be played on December 14, 15 and 18 with the quarter-finals on January 6, semi-finals on January 13 and the final on January 30.

GROUP ONE
Bristol University*, University College, Cork, Barcelona

GROUP TWO
Loughborough University*, University of Wales Institute, Cardiff

GROUP THREE
University College Dublin*, Exeter University, Toulouse

GROUP FOUR
Glasgow University*, Grenoble, Newcastle University

GROUP FIVE
Swansea University*, Dublin University, Brunel University

GROUP SIX
Roma*, Harper Adams, Durham University

GROUP SEVEN
Northumbria University*, Queen's Belfast, Trinity College, Carmarthen

The *Times* Trophy, which is to be launched today and kicks off on Monday, boosts the university scene still further, after the success of its inaugural

equivalent (*The Times Students European Rugby Cup*) last year. Contested between 21 of Europe's finest university clubs, it is a highly-regarded tournament, with the final raising the curtain for the European

Cup final at Murrayfield on the last weekend in January. The RFU has not lent assistance for the tournament, but the Irish RFU has invested £15,000 and Reeves hopes that a successful competition this

season will prompt further investment from other unions. Paddy Johns, the present Ireland captain, is an alumnus of Newcastle University and Trinity College, Dublin, as a graduate in dentistry. The big

man from Ulster recalls drinking port with his mates on coach trips back to the student union in the late Eighties and is grateful for the experience of student rugby.

"You can be up a bit more at university," Johns said. "Any youth international nowadays will go straight into club rugby and miss out on that. If I hadn't experienced my college days, then I wouldn't know, but having experienced it, I'm glad I played college rugby."

Five Nations must reflect tour lessons

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby Union Commentary

The England victory against South Africa was cause for British celebration. Only the very petty and the unredeemed nationalist did not find it within them to give a cheer, if not entirely full-throated, at the result. So it was down in Swansea, when the score was announced at the end of their match with Cardiff. Admittedly, there were one or two groans, but even these were tinged with humorous exaggeration in having yet again to acknowledge another English success where their own had tried so valiantly but had failed, narrowly.

The general mood was that of relief and gladness that at last a southern hemisphere rugby team had been made to sup at the table of humility. The emotions, you understand, do not always respond like this to such scores from Twickenham, but the sense of Britishness, which remains a potent identity despite rising factionalism, depends on whether England themselves can broaden their vision. After recent questionings from Twickenham about the continued value of the Lions, say, we can never be sure to what extent England wants to embrace Britain. Be that as it may for the moment.

This victory gave hope, as, indeed, did the efforts of the other nations in their matches against South Africa. It also confirmed the value of a southern hemisphere team playing the full complement of four countries on tour with interest accumulating for the final showdown.

mation of his visitors' weaknesses, particularly those of Wales, may have been accurate. Yet when he became the invited guest, he had no desire to criticise. He was thought to be that rare South African, one equipped with a wry humour, but he was, in fact, being a true South African: straight and to the point. He did believe that there was a mountain to climb.

To accomplish the grand slam was not going to be that difficult, surely, if the standard of rugby in these islands? Mallett thought so, reasoning that each of the four countries had it within them to rise to the occasion, to lift their level of performance for the single, special game. So it proved.

The question that should occupy the four countries, including victorious England, is: can they do so again? ... and again ... and again? This is why the forthcoming championship is important. Each country must demonstrate, not wily-nilly but consistently, a level of resourcefulness and skill that is comparable to what are recognisable world standards.

To begin with, the number of unforced errors are inexcusable. By and large, this separates the quality of rugby in the southern hemisphere from that in Europe. The European teams must rise above the common jibe that the *Five Nations* Championship is merely second division stuff.

It is easy for countries to talk themselves into believing this and to respond accordingly; or to believe that the colour and the excitement of the tournament is sufficient substitute for lack of technique. Nevertheless, having shown that they are capable of something better, why should we, and indeed the players, accept anything less from now on?

‘Each country must try to achieve world standards’

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Begin Bridge with *The Times*

Lesson 35 - Opening with an Unbalanced Hand

Last week I began to look at opening bids on unbalanced hands. Do you remember the definition of a *balanced* hand? No void, no singleton and not more than one doubleton. Choosing your opening bid can be easier when you are unbalanced. Again, you count your points. If you have 12 or more you simply open one of your longest suits.

The only possible problem is when you have two five-card suits. Here the answer is quite straightforward: you open the higher ranking, it is easy to see why this should be when you hold touching suits: you can next bid your lower ranking one and partner can choose between the two at the same level. Suppose you hold five spades and five hearts. If you open One Spade and then bid Two Hearts over partner's One No-Trump response, partner can pass if he prefers hearts and bid Two Spades if he prefers spades. If you opened One Heart and rebid Two Spades partner would have to go to Three Hearts if he preferred that suit. When you have a major suit and a minor suit it is always preferable to bid the major suit first.

Choose your opening bid with the following hands:

(A) ♠ 5 (B) ♠ J9875 (C) ♠ 5
♥ AKQ32 ♥ AKQ2 ♥ AKQ3
♦ 1098 ♦ K5 ♦ 109854
♣ A32 ♣ 63 ♣ A63

(D) ♠ KJ1076 (E) ♠ KJ107 (F) ♠ 65
♥ A5 ♥ A5 ♥ AK783
♦ QJ4 ♦ QJ432 ♦ KQ874
♣ Q6 ♣ Q6 ♣ 3

With Hand (A) open One Heart, which happens to be your strongest as well as your longest suit. On Hand (B) you should open One Spade. Even though the suit is weak it is the length that counts. On Hand (C) you again open in your longest suit, this time One Diamond. A long time ago it was fashionable to open One Heart with this hand but don't listen to anyone who tells you that now.

Hand (D) is interesting. It falls into our definition of a balanced hand but this time the five-card suit is a major. In this course we are going to suggest that you open One No-Trump on 5-3-3-2 hands even when the five-card suit is a major. However, this is not a universal approach and you will surely find some people who disagree.

Don't be tempted to open One No-Trump on Hand (E). Its two doubletons make it an unbalanced hand. Open One Diamond, your longest suit. On Hand (F) open One Heart, the higher-ranking of five-card suits.

You can get a copy of any lesson from this beginners' course by sending two 20p stamps per lesson for five stamps per set of five) to Sally Brock, 75 Toneridge Lane, High Wycombe. Bucks HP13 7QA. Don't forget to state which ones you want.

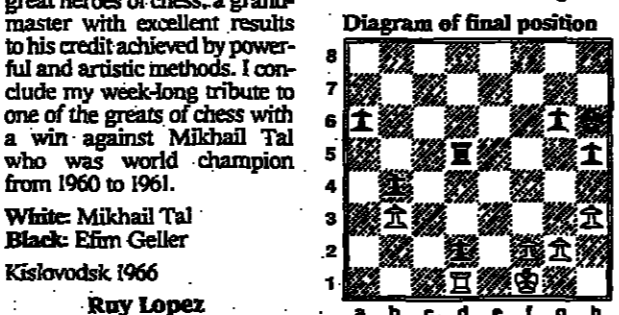
KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Chess hero

Efim Geller, who died in Moscow last month, was one of the great heroes of chess, a grandmaster with excellent results to his credit achieved by powerful and artistic methods. I conclude my week-long tribute to one of the greats of chess with a win against Mikhail Tal who was world champion from 1960 to 1961.

White: Mikhail Tal
Black: Efim Geller
Kislovodsk 1966



Roy Lopez

1 e4 e5
2 Nf3 Nc6
3 Bb5 Bc5
4 Bxc6 Bxc6
5 0-0 Be7
6 Re1 b5
7 Bb3 0-0
8 h3 Bb7
9 d3 d6
10 c3 Na5
11 Bc2 c5
12 Nbd2 Re8
13 Nf1 Bc8
14 Qe2 Rb8
15 Ng3 d5
16 e4d5 Re5
17 Bg5 g6
18 b4 c6
19 c6d4 c6
20 Bb3 Re8
21 Ra2 Nc5
22 Nc4 Bg5
23 Nc6 Qe7
24 Qd4 Nd4
25 Ne5 N5
26 Qc3 N5
27 Q3 Bc8
28 Ne4 Nd4
29 Qc3 Bc8
30 e6d3 Qc6
31 d4 e6d4
32 Nc7 Nc7
33 Nc6+ N6
34 Bc4 Qc6

Blitz chess

A rapidplay tournament in Haifa, Israel resulted in the following placings: Anand and Polgar 11.5/14; Svindler 8.5; Gelfand 8; Smirin and Greenfeld 5; Alterman 4.5 and Kosashvili 2.

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by email. The address is keene.chess@aol.com. The best contributions from *Times* readers will be published either here or in the *Saturday Times Weekend* column.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles, from International Grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99+p&p).

Raymond Keene writes on chess in the Sport section from Monday to Friday and in *Weekend* on Saturday.

New TV deal will raise club profile

By MARK SOULSTER

ENGLISH club rugby received a welcome boost yesterday when both the BBC and Channel 4 concluded deals with BSKyB that allow highlights of the Allied Dunbar Premiership to be shown during Sunday Grandstand, while Channel 4 begins a new Saturday morning magazine programme, possibly to be presented by Jerry Guscott, on January 2.

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) said that it was delighted to be renewing its partnership with the BBC, whose coverage will start early in the new year. "Same-day highlights of the best of the league action is great news for rugby fans," Francis Baron, the RFU chief executive, said.

Phil Vickery, the Gloucester and England prop, is likely to undergo a further spell on the sidelines after a recurrence of his neck and back injury only 15 minutes into his comeback game in a second XV fixture against Leicester on Wednesday night. Vickery, 22, spent much of yesterday in hospital undergoing a series of scans in an attempt to pinpoint the severity of the injury.

Llanelli were refused permission last night by the European Rugby Cup board to play Scott Quinnell, Byron Hayward, Jason Barrel and Salei Finau, their recent signings in their European Cup quarter-final against Perpignan tomorrow. Llanelli had asked for special dispensation because the players had not been registered by the cut-off date of September 12.

INSIDE rugby

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Which national Sunday newspaper do you buy when you have a week off?
 The Sun The Mirror The Independent The Daily Mail The Daily Telegraph

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

MONTUNO
a. A cattleman
b. Signalling by whistling
c. An improvised rumba

NORATE
a. Good at general knowledge
b. Free from taxes
c. To announce

Answers on page 54

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Capablanca-Nimzowitsch, Bad Kissingen, 1928. The white position looks desperate, but he can see his way to a draw. Can you see how?

DECEMBER 11 1998
SPEED SKATING
New breed provides challenge for Good
THE TIMES
SPORT
MONTUNO
NORATE
WINNING MOVE
SOLUTION
Answers on page 54

Chris McGrath assesses the meeting at Cheltenham

Tamarindo can take charge

PERHAPS the most telling measure of the demands made by the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup is the grim subsequent record of its recent winners.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

While Imperial Call, who triumphed for Ireland in 1996, is now doing his best to amass the contribution he has already made to this trend, it already made to this trend, it already made to this trend...

He certainly dug painfully deep to preserve his lead in March and has since laboured to little effect. There is, moreover, every prospect of another struggle when he returns to the scene of his finest hour today.

take advantage is Tamarindo, who has been backed for the Coral Welsh National (5-1, from 7-1, with the sponsor).

RICHARD EVANS
Nap: TAMARINDO (2/30 Cheltenham)
With several front runners, this should be set up for Tamarindo, a recent course and distance winner who is suited by waiting tactics.

He is out of the handicap, but looks sufficiently well treated anyway to sustain his trainers' excellent form.



Cool Dawn returns today to the scene of his Cheltenham Gold Cup triumph

Table with 3 columns: Race Name, Time, and Odds. Includes races like 12.10 Hit And Run, 12.45 Spendid, and 1.20 Rio's King.

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Table with 3 columns: Race Name, Time, and Odds. Includes races like 3.40 CHUBB FIVE HANDICAP HURDLE and 1.10 MADRAGAS STAKES.

Table with 3 columns: Race Name, Time, and Odds. Includes races like 1.45 LYNNHURST PRESS NURSERY HANDICAP and 2.20 MADRAGAS HANDICAP.

Table with 3 columns: Race Name, Time, and Odds. Includes races like 2.55 MADRAGAS HANDICAP and 3.30 LADBROKE HANDICAP.

Table with 3 columns: Race Name, Time, and Odds. Includes races like 3.30 LADBROKE HANDICAP and 1.00 GLASGOW PADDOCKS SELLING HURDLE.

Table with 3 columns: Race Name, Time, and Odds. Includes races like 1.00 GLASGOW PADDOCKS SELLING HURDLE and 10/3 Tamarindo.

Table with 3 columns: Race Name, Time, and Odds. Includes races like 10/3 Tamarindo and 4/1 Macgeorge.

Table with 3 columns: Race Name, Time, and Odds. Includes races like 4/1 Macgeorge and 5/1 Seven Towers.

Table with 3 columns: Race Name, Time, and Odds. Includes races like 5/1 Seven Towers and 13/2 Strath Royal.

Table with 3 columns: Race Name, Time, and Odds. Includes races like 13/2 Strath Royal and 8/1 Call It A Day.

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Advertisement for David Powell Radcliff, featuring a large image of a horse and jockey, and text promoting horse racing and betting services.

Advertisement for G.F. Roberts PLC Handicap Chase, featuring a large image of a horse and jockey, and text promoting horse racing and betting services.

Advertisement for William Hill, featuring a large image of a horse and jockey, and text promoting horse racing and betting services.

David Powell explains why a British athlete is still active in the festive season
Radcliffe seizes last chance for title

FOR many of Great Britain's leading athletes, the warmth and comfort of the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre awaits them on Sunday. The majority of the seven individual event gold medal winners from the European Championships in Budapest will be there for the BBC Sports Review of the Year and one of them, Iwan Thomas, deserves to win the trophy. If not Thomas, Denise Lewis. Given that football is the language that most people understand these days and that Michael Owen is thought likely to deny the athletes who have actually won something - several things - this year, we can liken Budapest to a penalty shoot-out. Nine gold medals - two from the relays - were tucked away by Britain out of ten shots. The face-in-the-hands, knees-to-the-ground effort came from Paula Radcliffe, the only British title contender who missed her target. Radcliffe will not be enjoying

'Having dropped her pan in the gold rush, she was reduced to tears'

BBC hospitality on Sunday, having turned down her invitation. Instead, she has chosen a day in the mud in the hope of becoming a European championship winner, albeit four months late. It is doubtful that Radcliffe would have been heading for Ferrara, Italy, today had she taken the 10,000 metres gold medal that she had every right to believe she could win in the Hungarian capital. In the first half of the year, Radcliffe had taken the silver medal in the world cross-country long-course championships, broken Liz McColgan's British 10,000 metres record in her first attempt at the distance, set a world record for five miles on the road and won the European Cup 5,000 metres. Then, with Budapest just three weeks away and racing over 3,000 metres, she defeated Sonia O'Sullivan, who would go on to achieve a European double at 5,000 and 10,000 metres. Radcliffe, an articulate, intelligent, bubbly young woman, was having dropped her pan in the gold rush, reduced to tears. Now Ferrara offers her a second chance to end the year as a European champion. It will be her first appearance in the championships and she will start as



At Balmoral, Radcliffe set a new world best for five miles on the road, but in Budapest, O'Sullivan, seen about to overtake her, was too strong in the 10,000 metres

favourite. In the past, she has saved herself for a build-up towards the world event in March, but now she is seizing a chance to end the year on a high note. O'Sullivan, who denied Radcliffe the gold in the world cross-country championship, will not be there. Neither is Gabriela Szabo, of Romania, another formidable opponent, expected. "I have had a very good year, but it has all been clouded over now," Radcliffe said. "I want to get over that mentally, so that I am not carrying any baggage into the

world cross-country." A European cross-country title in a weakened field may not be the worth of Budapest gold, but she needs a title. Radcliffe has not won a championship since her success in the world junior cross-country nearly seven years ago. How she has tried, though, two world cross-country silver medals and just outside the frame in Olympic and world championships. Her fifth place in Budapest was explained by a virus from which she thinks she has recovered, though she wants to be sure.

"This will be a test to see if, when I am pushed, the virus is still around," Radcliffe said. "I do not want to go to the world cross thinking it is still there. I would rather get a championship out of the way, hopefully a successful championship." It would be a nice way, also, to begin celebrations in the week of her 25th birthday. If Radcliffe wins, Lewis can claim an assist. "The virus knocked my haemoglobin down, giving the appearance of anaemia, though it was not classic anaemia," Radcliffe,

who subsequently missed the Commonwealth Games and was off training completely for four weeks. "It attacked my immune system and ran that down, so I caught anything that anybody around me had. Denise put me in touch with Brian Welsh, a nutritionist who has worked with her. He gave me this drink to build up my immune system, which they have been testing on cancer patients, and I am sure that helped me get over it." A stiff drink might have been called for on holiday in Antigua

when, thinking she had left her troubles behind, she was caught in Hurricane George. "The local authorities put out television programmes saying what to do if your room collapsed," Radcliffe said. "The anticipation was more frightening than when it struck, though there was one stage that was worrying, when the windows were bending in." At least the virus did Radcliffe one favour. Off running while in Antigua, she did not have to worry about how she was going to fit in her training.

HOCKEY

Robinson offers Reading quality

By Sydney Friskin

KEN ROBINSON, who scored four goals for New Zealand at the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia last September, is in the Reading squad for two matches this weekend. He signed for Reading a few weeks ago, but has not been available until now. Robinson played a prominent part in New Zealand's 5-4 victory over England in the Azlan Shah tournament at Ipoh, Malaysia, nine months ago, when he scored two goals, and also represented New Zealand in the World Cup last May. Reading, who are sixth in the National League premier division, will be trying to recover last weekend's postponed away match against Bournemouth tomorrow and the home fixture on Sunday against Guildford, who are reinforced by the move of Richard Arscott from Hampton. Southgate has acquired the services of Kwandwane Browne, 18, a talented forward who was the captain of the Trinidad and Tobago team at the Commonwealth Games. Teddington play away to Southgate on Sunday without Jason Laslett, their former Great Britain captain, who has work commitments. Canterbury, with a home match against Bournemouth, seem unlikely to be troubled from their position at the top of the table, but Cannock, in second place, may have to work hard against Bourneville. "The postponed EHA Cup fourth-round match between Sheffield and East Grinstead will be replayed tomorrow. The winners will meet Canterbury in the fifth round on January 17. The National League moves into its winter recess after its matches on Sunday and will resume on January 24. The only first division fixture of the weekend takes place tomorrow, when St Albans play away to Doncaster.

East give regional tournament a miss

By Cathy Harris

THE structure of all levels of youth hockey could undergo a radical overhaul by the sport's competitions committee when it meets at Milton Keynes tomorrow. Fears that talented young players may be overplayed and the withdrawal of the East region's under-21 women's squad from a regional tournament at the end of the month have prompted widespread discussion on the future of junior events involving boys and girls. Five regional teams from England - the East, West, South, North and Midlands - compete in the regional competition each year. Ann Cunningham, the president of the East region, said that the under-21 women's team's absence would be for one season only, while the situation was reviewed. "We wrote to the English Hockey Association questioning the timing of the event about the quality of the clubs and also raised the financial side," Cunningham said. "The region subsidises it but it can still cost around £130 per player and that's a lot of money when you are a student." Maggie Souyave, the England coach, said that she was disappointed that the East had pulled out because they have great strength in depth. "I know those players involved in regional and national centres would be missing and that could probably affect the standard, but I'd always be hopeful of picking up someone who had slipped the net," she said. Souyave believes that competitions should not be held around Christmas, when conditions can be hostile and players should be resting. The competitions committee is expected to move the tournament to May and announce an effort to bring competitions into line across sex and age groups.

SNOOKER: NO FINAL HANGOVER AS IRISHMAN REMAINS ON COURSE IN THE GERMAN OPEN

Doherty winning the mind game

FROM PHIL YATES IN BINGEN

PLAYERS usually have the opportunity to go home and recharge their cerebral batteries after the bitter disappointment of a narrow defeat in a final. Ken Doherty was not afforded that luxury this week, but he has shown no ill-effects. If Doherty suffered an emotional hangover from his 7-6 defeat by Stephen Hendry in the final of the Rothmans's Malta Grand Prix five days ago, it was barely detectable during his 5-3 win over Stephen Lee in the quarter-final of the German Masters here yesterday. Doherty is, understandably, looking forward with a great anticipation to the Irish Open, the first world ranking event

to be staged in the Republic. Even so, he appreciates that the importance of his visit to Germany should not be overlooked. Confidence is a vital ingredient for success and Doherty is well aware that by triumphing on the banks of the River Rhine, he will arrive at the National Basketball Arena in the Dublin suburb of Tallaght on Tuesday positively brimming with the stuff. He constructed six half-century breaks against Lee, the Grand Prix champion, to highlight easily his most eye-catching performance of a relatively

low-key season thus far. "I know I'm playing well at the moment and I want to make the most of it," he said. Having comfortably overcome Anthony Hamilton 5-1 in the first round, Lee, who has risen to No 4 in the provisional world rankings, appeared to be more than capable of registering his maiden win over Doherty in three attempts when he had the better of the early exchanges to lead 2-1. Lee did not pot a ball or, for that matter, score a single point in the following two frames, though, as Doherty established a 3-2 advantage with

breaks of 71 and 56. He then benefited from the misfortune of his opponent in the seventh frame. Lee, who had stolen the sixth with a brown to black clearance to draw level at 3-3, was poised to move ahead when an explosive "kick" caused a simple red to go astray. Doherty, naturally relieved, won it on the green and, assisted by a run of 75 from a half-chance in the eighth, progressed to meet John Parrott or John Higgins, the world and United Kingdom champion, in the semi-finals. "If I keep up that kind of scoring, I'll be OK, whoever I play," Doherty said.



Doherty: full of confidence

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

BUNDESLIGA: Gwent: London Leopards 71 Newcastle Eagles 79
EUROLEAGUE: Valencia: Group B: Chicago Zalgiris 75, Real Madrid 71, Group C: Real Madrid 75, Valencia 66, Group D: Real Madrid 75, Valencia 66, Group E: Real Madrid 75, Valencia 66
TOUR MATCHES: New Zealand (third day of tour): India 103 (A Pann 4-3) and 90 (R Mingo 75, S R Tendulkar 54, Virendra 41), Denmark 107 (Lauritzen 37, M Sorensen 65, M Sorensen 32, J Engelsted 33 not out, Mikkelsen 4 for 88 and 150-3), Czech Republic 107 (Serebrennikov 64, Serebrennikov 64, Serebrennikov 64)
SHEPHERD SHIELD (first day of four): Hobart 100 (D Marsh 88, 51, 35), South Australia 95-1 (G Blissett 68 not out)

CURLING

FLMS, Switzerland: European Curling Championships: Fifth round: Women: Scotland 9 July 2, England 3, Finland 7, Sixth round: Scotland 10 Austria 2, England 11 Holland 5
First Preliminary group standings: Men: A1: 1 Sweden 5 wins, 2 Germany 4, 3 Switzerland 4, 4 Holland 4, 5 Denmark 4, 6 Austria 4, 7 Finland 4, 8 France 3, 9 England 2, 10 Holland 1, 11 Czech Republic 1, 12 Scotland 1, 13 Germany 1, 14 Norway 1, 15 Denmark 1, 16 Russia 1, 17 Luxembourg 1
Quarter-Finals: Women: Scotland 5 France 4, Switzerland 10 Norway 1, Sweden 4 Denmark 3, Germany 6 Finland 3

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Chelsea 2 Aston Villa 1
EUROPEAN CUP: Champions' League: Greece At Cosmos Zagreb 1 Olympiacos 1, FC Porto 3 Ajax 0

CRICKET

Group B: Athletic Bilbao 1 Galatasaray 0, Juventus 2 Rosenborg 0
Group C: West Midlands 2 Spartak Moscow 1, Sturm Graz 0 Heracles 0
Group D: Manchester United 1 Bayern Munich 1, Borussia Dortmund 2, Lens 1, Dynamo Kiev 2
Group E: Panathinaikos 1 Arsenal 1, Sevilla 2, PSV Eindhoven 2, Benfica 2
Group F: Kalmar Gais 5 HJK Helsinki 2, FC Bayern 2, Borussia 2
AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELDS: Southern section: First round: Millwall 2 Cardiff 0
SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Third round: Rangers 2 Dundee United 1, Celtic 2, Aberdeen 1, Hearts 1, Motherwell 1
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Bayern Munich 1 FA XI 1
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Challenge Cup: Second-round replays: Postponed. Bishops Auckland v Faculty Club, President's Cup: First-round replay: Wigan 1 Runcorn 3, Second round: Greenock 2 Stirling Juniors 2
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: League Cup: First round: Hibernian 1, Stirling Juniors 1, Falkirk 1, Stirling Juniors 1, Stirling Juniors 1, Stirling Juniors 1
RYMAN LEAGUE: Third division: South: 11 Clifton 1
HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Buxton Thistle 0, Heather 2, Keith 3, Greenock 3, Rother 3, Hurlly 1
BARRO'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Polpenmore: Dunfermline 1, Dundee 1, Dundee 1
NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: Premier division: Sanjour 2, Sanjour 2
COMPLETE MUSIC HELLAS LEAGUE: Premier division: Carisbon 2, Sanjour 0, EFC Cheltenham 3, Highworth 1
MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: South: 11 Clifton 1, Postponed: Postponed: Postponed: Postponed
JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Felkstone Post and Town 0, Bury Town 1
JEWSON WESSIE LEAGUE CUP: Second round, second Leg: Eastleigh 7, Farnham 0 (10-3 on agg)
MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Brook House 0, Ruston Manor 2, Buckingham Athletic 3, Braintree Sports 1

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football: Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
First division: Bury v Sheffield Utd (7.45), Third division: Mansfield v Shrewsbury (7.45)
The Football League Youth Alliance: North West Conference: Preston v Tranmere (2.0), Walsham v Bury (2.0), North East Conference: Halifax v Bradford (12.0)
FAI HARP LAIGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bohernabreena v Rathfriland (7.35), Waterford v Sago (7.45)

GOLF

AUCKLAND: New Zealand Open: Leading first round scores (Japan unless stated): 65: P Tataravangi, 66: R Pampling, 67: M Campbell, 68: K King, 69: M Sweeton, 70: J Carter, 71: J Laine, 72: P Parsons, 73: K Booker, 74: P Fowler, 75: S Laycock, 76: G Oates, 77: J Bennett, 78: M Cam, 79: P Money, 80: N O'Hara, 81: C Beck, 82: E Cook, 83: D Chappell, 84: D Chappell, 85: T Under, 86: M Sheppard, 87: T Dempsey, 88: M Jorzon, 89: J Jermar, 90: R Rose, 91: B Mavris, 92: J Varman, 93: P Smith, 94: O'Hara, 95: O'Hara, 96: O'Hara, 97: O'Hara, 98: O'Hara, 99: O'Hara, 100: O'Hara

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NH): Florida 6, Ottawa 5, NY Rangers 1, Colorado 2, Chicago 3, Edmonton 1, Dallas 3, San Jose 3, Phoenix 1, St. Louis 2, Los Angeles 2, Washington 1, Anaheim 4, Vancouver 4
VAL D'ISERE, France: Men's downhill training: 1, A Denzler (F) 2m 1.84sec, 2, J-L Chérel (F) 2m 1.96s, 3, K Chesneau (It) 2m 2.08s, 4, P Stucki (S) 2m 2.12s, 5, W Parathaler (It) 2m 2.15s, 6, S Eberharter (Aust) 2m 2.22s, 7, L Cattaneo (It) 2m 2.25s, 8, C Gruber (Austria) 2m 2.37s, 9, P Ortlieb (Austria) 2m 2.42s, 10, M Hemmann (S) 2m 2.43s
WOMEN'S WORLD CUP: Super-G: 1, A Meisner (Austria) 1m 21.56s, 2, M Elvén (S) 1m 22.74s, 3, R Coughlin (US) 1m 22.94s, 4, P Wiborg (Nor) 1m 23.08s, 5, R Houli (Gen) 1m 23.09s, 6, S Schuster (Austria)

SNOOKER

BINGEN: German Masters: First round: J Pardo (Eng) 4, J White (Eng) 5-1, Quarter-final: K Doherty (Irl) 4, S Lee (Eng) 5-3, 1 Orpin (Mal) 0, S Henry (SCO) 5-2

SKING

VAL D'ISERE, France: Men's downhill training: 1, A Denzler (F) 2m 1.84sec, 2, J-L Chérel (F) 2m 1.96s, 3, K Chesneau (It) 2m 2.08s, 4, P Stucki (S) 2m 2.12s, 5, W Parathaler (It) 2m 2.15s, 6, S Eberharter (Aust) 2m 2.22s, 7, L Cattaneo (It) 2m 2.25s, 8, C Gruber (Austria) 2m 2.37s, 9, P Ortlieb (Austria) 2m 2.42s, 10, M Hemmann (S) 2m 2.43s

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SPORT IN BRIEF

Halifax capture Sheffield forward

RUGBY LEAGUE: Halifax Blue Sox have signed Paul Broadbent, the Great Britain prop forward, from Sheffield Eagles, their Yorkshire rivals. Broadbent, who had been with the Challenge Cup winners for 11 years, joined Halifax as part of a five-player exchange deal. Wakefield Trinity, the JJB Super League newcomers, began their team strengthening yesterday by signing Glen Tomlinson, a scrum half, who played for Bradford Bulls when they won the Super League in 1997. He moved to Hull Sharks but played only seven games before breaking a leg. Wakefield, who have released all five of their 1998 imports, have replaced three of them with the capture of Willie Poching and Shane Kenward, the St George pair, plus Frank Watene, the prop forward, who captained Auckland Warriors' reserve side this year.

DRUGS IN SPORT: Denis Petouchinski, a pole vaulter, was stripped of his Commonwealth Games silver medal and banned from the next Games, in 2002, after the Games Federation yesterday found him guilty of taking performance-enhancing steroids. The Russian-born vaulter, who competes for New Zealand, tested positive for stanozolol at the Games in Kuala Lumpur in September. A Commonwealth Games Federation statement said that he had broken the regulations concerning prohibited substances and that he would be eliminated from the 1998 Games and suspended from the 2002 event in Manchester. The Federation will notify the New Zealand track federation and the sports world governing body, the International Amateur Athletic Federation, for them to carry out any further action they might feel necessary.

TENNIS: Tim Phillips was yesterday elected vice-chairman of the All England Club with a view to succeeding John Curry, the present chairman, in 2000. Phillips, 56, gained three Blues at Oxford, one of them as captain of tennis. He played in the men's doubles at Wimbledon in 1966, the same year that he was made a member of the All England Club.

CRICKET: Kent have announced an after-tax profit of £133,000 for last season, despite the team's disappointing form in 1998. The figure is an increase of more than £21,000 on the previous year, when the county finished runners-up in the championship, the AXA League and the Benson and Hedges Cup.

SKIING: Alexandra Meissnitzer, of Austria, gained her third World Cup win of the season yesterday in the super-giant slalom race held in Val d'Isère. Under clear, sunny skies, the 25-year-old covered the 1,965-metre course in 1min 21.95sec, finishing 0.79sec ahead of Martina Erll, of Germany, who is still without a win this season. "I was aggressive from the start to the bottom," Meissnitzer, who won here in 1996, said, "but it was a very difficult course and you couldn't ski without mistakes.



Base Rate

Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited announces that its base rate has changed from 6.75% to 6.25% p.a. with effect from close of business on 10th December, 1998.



PO Box 130 London SW1Y 4LP Tel: 0171 451 3500

Scandal could cut England's odds

For once, it is not English cricket that is in crisis. The revelations concerning Shane Warne and Mark Waugh's dealings with an Indian bookmaker have rocked the game in Australia, indeed the whole country, to its very foundations. Suddenly, two wonderful cricketers are idols with feet of clay. Metaphorically, if not physically, the great future took the heat off the England team as they prepared for the third Test match, which begins today, in soaring temperatures.

JOHN WOODCOCK



Cricket Commentary

Warne and Waugh were incredibly naive, extraordinarily brainless, undoubtedly shifty, shamelessly mercenary (a legacy of World Series Cricket) and seemingly corruptible, although I am sure they would never intentionally have given anything away that affected Australia's chances on the field of play. All of which was compounded by the decision of the Australian Cricket Board and the International Cricket Council to hush things up.

been one of the players and had answered the same questions in exactly the same way. I would neither have felt, nor been, in the least bit compromised. None of the information that I had passed on was, as it were, classified. But if I had been a player and been paid for it, I would instantly have become the bookmaker's agent — a member of the network, a potential prey to blackmail.

It is a sad, sordid and debilitating business, which lays the Australian Board and the players involved open to the almost inevitable charge of hypocrisy, regarding the bribery and match-fixing scandal in Pakistan. Even in Australia now, let alone on the Indian sub-continent, the integrity of the players and the candour of the administrators are open to question. There has certainly been no commotion like it in Adelaide since the exchange of cables with MCC in January 1933 on another matter that was seriously undermining the game — the morality or otherwise of bodyline bowling.



A stark pylon offends the eye as the England players go through their stretching exercises on the Adelaide outfield

For the past two days, the talk has been of little else but betrayal.

Some would say that another form of it is to be seen in the "updating" of Adelaide's incomparably lovely Oval. If you think of arriving on the first tee at St Andrews or the Badminton Horse Trials or at Symond's Yat or the cricket

ground at Arundel to find the pylons have landed, that is how it is here. No doubt it is progress of a kind, but it is aesthetically displeasing. The spires of the nearby cathedral now have four light towers to contend with, blemishes that are meant to retract but at the moment are stuck in the sky. That the ground is still the

more remote. Having seen the great Hutton almost at the end of his tether on that tour after England had been overrun in the first Test match and knowing how many good men the captaincy of England in Australia has all but brought down, I am filled with admiration for the way Alec Stewart keeps going with the attack

that he has and the great burdens that he himself carries. Whereas, of course, some captains read the game better than others and some have the imagination that others lack, and some create chances and others despair, and some just clap their hands and some go into a kind of oblivion, in the end what delivers their record is the quality of their players, especially their bowlers.

Shrewd and knowing as they were, I very much doubt whether Hutton or Ray Illingworth or Mike Brearley, the three post-war England captains to have taken the Ashes home with them, would have made any better bricks than Stewart has done with the straw at his disposal. Yet Mark Taylor and any side, successful as they are, will surely have been thrown a little off balance with this tarnishing of their reputation. So much goes on in the recesses of the mind to affect a player's performance. Watching a couple of those rebel tours of South Africa during their isolation, I felt that almost all the Englishmen played well below their known form because of an uneasy conscience. Geoffrey Boycott usually played all right, but Boycott is a law unto himself. Essentially, it must be the Englishmen who hold the high ground now and I hope it is not entirely fantastical to think that that might be reflected in the play.

South Africa tail keeps West Indies at bay

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN PORT ELIZABETH

PORT ELIZABETH (first day of five; West Indies won toss; South Africa, with two first-innings wickets in hand, have scored 223 for eight against West Indies)

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings

G Kirsten c Jacobs b Walsh	29
H H Gibbs b Walsh	2
J H c Hooper b Walsh	2
D J Cullinan b Dillon	4
W J Cronje not out	21
B Boucher c Hooper b Ambrose	17
S M Pollock c Williams b Ambrose	28
M V Boucher c Hooper b McLean	17
P J Symcox not out	30
A A Donald not out	27
Extras (lb 5, w 1, nb 12)	18
Total (9 wickets, 63.4 overs)	223

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-22, 3-27, 4-27, 5-28, 6-28, 7-42, 8-75.

BOWLING: Ambrose 17-6-29-2, Walsh 20-0-74-3, McLean 16-3-22-1, Dillon 10-4-1-24-1.

Umpires: D R Shepherd (England) and R Koenen.

WEST Indies squandered the opportunity to dismiss South Africa cheaply on the opening day of the second Test at St George's Park. On a startlingly well-grassed pitch, a ninth-wicket partnership — as unlikely as it has been entertaining — between Pat Symcox and Allan Donald has so far yielded 48 priceless runs and contributed substantially to the South Africa first-innings total.

It had been a disciplined bowling effort that had reduced South Africa to 175 for eight shortly before tea, but Nixon McLean and Courtney Walsh became involved in a war of bouncers with Symcox and Donald, rarely threatening their wickets. By the time that bad light brought a premature end to the day, with 26 overs unbowed, it was the West Indies who were in greater need of relief.

For Walsh, it was a particularly disappointing end to the day after his three early wickets had taken him ahead of Ian Botham as the third-highest wicket-taker in Test matches.

The return to international cricket of the luckless Herschelle Gibbs lasted only five overs when, pushing forward to Walsh, the ball ricocheted off pad and glove and on to the off stump. Gibbs thus became the latest South Africa opener to fail, although, ironically, little had troubled him before that point.

Three wickets immediately before lunch more than justified Brian Lara's decision to bowl first. Gary Kirsten gloved Walsh down the leg side for Ridley Jacobs to take a low catch to his right and for Walsh to pass Botham's mark of 383 wickets. Only Richard

Hadlee, with 431, and Kapil Dev, with 434, have been more successful.

On a seaming pitch, Daryll Cullinan's expansive drive over a full-length ball from Mervyn Dillon, which hit the leg stump was ambitious to say the least and Jacques Kallis, who once again looked to be the most composed of the batsmen, gloved a pull at Walsh to Carl Hooper at second slip. Jonty Rhodes edged Curtly Ambrose to Hooper in the first over after lunch and Hariste Cronje was run out by a direct hit from Floyd Rutherford. The first suggestion of South African resistance came from Shaun Pollock, who, although eventually undone by Ambrose changing his line of attack to around the wicket, struck 28. Mark Boucher played his part by pushing and prodding his way into double figures before he, too, sent a catch to Hooper at second slip.

Then came the partnership between Symcox, who rarely lacked for smiles or words of advice for the West Indies bowlers, and Donald. Much will depend on how quickly those two can be separated today and if Ambrose recovers from a slight groin strain that prevented him from returning after lunch.

Mushtaq and Waqar rattle Zimbabwe

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

LAHORE (first day of five; Pakistan won toss; Zimbabwe scored 153 in their first innings)

SCOREBOARD

ZIMBABWE: First Innings

G J Harris c Ijaz b Waqar	3
G W Flower lbw b Waqar	7
M W Goodwin c Moin b Waqar	10
A D R Campbell c Younis b Waqar	5
J A Flower not out	50
N C Johnson c and b Shoaib	14
C B Walters c Saqlain b Saqlain	28
H H Shraik c Waqar b Saqlain	19
H K George c Shoaib b Saqlain	3
A Huzefa c Saqlain b Saqlain	13
M Musinguwa c Ijaz b Saqlain	2
Extras (lb 4, nb 3, nb 12)	18
Total (66.5 overs)	153

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-16, 3-22, 4-29, 5-35, 6-104, 7-138, 8-140, 9-170, 10-183.

BOWLING: Waqar 23-3-42-0, Mushtaq 16-3-54-4, Shoaib Akhtar 15-1-48-1, Saqlain Mushtaq 13.5-3-32-5.

Umpires: D G Haer (Australia) and M M Aslam (Pakistan).

SAQLAIN MUSHTAQ, the Pakistan off spinner, and Waqar Younis, the fast bowler, dominated the opening day of the second Test as Zimbabwe were bowled out for 153. Bad light prevented Pakistan starting their reply as play ended 16 minutes early after the Pakistan pair had shared nine wickets between them.

Waqar took four early wickets in a devastating spell of 25 deliveries as Zimbabwe were reduced to 29 for four. He finished with final figures of four for 54. Saqlain, whose father died on Sunday, achieved a career-best five for 32 to run through the middle order and tall, Andrew Flower, the Zimbabwe left-hander, was on 60 not out after a patient and determined innings.

Pakistan's attempts to level the series suffered an early setback when Aamir Sohail, their captain, pulled out be-

fore the start. The reason given was a severe headache and fever, but sources suggested that he walked out after a dispute with the selectors. Moin Khan, the wicketkeeper, who replaced Aamir as captain, won the toss and sent Zimbabwe in on a grassy pitch. "It was a good beginning for me because we won the toss," Moin said.

THE TIMES

"AND IN TODAY'S NEWS,

THE CITY OF LEEDS

RE-APPEARED AFTER VANISHING

FROM RADAR SCREENS

THREE DAYS AGO."

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CHANGING TIMES

Chelsea present the for the title

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Wasteful Ar

Chelsea present case for the title

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

WEDNESDAY, December 16, looms large in the calendar of the FA Cup. It is the day when Chelsea play Manchester United at Old Trafford and both teams will be seeking to inflict a telling psychological blow on the other in the battle for the title.

Due to the peculiarities of the fixture computer, the sides will meet again at Stamford Bridge on December 29. With four months of the Premiership campaign still to run, nothing will be settled, but an advantage can definitely be gained.

This point was not lost on Aston Villa, the Premiership leaders, in the wake of their 2-1 defeat against Chelsea on Wednesday night. It was no disgrace, with Chelsea now unbeaten in 14 league matches and displaying undeniable championship credentials, yet

the manner of the loss was disturbing.

Apart from a few isolated breaks, Villa defended throughout. They had to, as Chelsea swarmed towards them, wave after wave, but it was rarely with the calm assurance that has characterised their early-season surge to the top. Such was the pressure that the ball was regularly dispatched to all parts of the pitch and stadium in a desperate attempt to relieve the siege.

It might have taken until the fourth and final minute of time added on for stoppages, when Tore Andre Flo headed in the winner, for Villa to crack, but crack they did. Title pretenders should be able to offer more and should show the ability and agility to combat fire with fire. Villa did neither, which hardly bodes well for their game against Arsenal at Villa Park on Sunday.

"We're very deflated," Alan Thompson, the Villa midfielder said. "We always knew it was going to be difficult. Chelsea have so many good players, but we thought we'd done enough for the draw. We've just got to get it out of our system before we play Arsenal."

The fact that John Gregory, the normally articulate Villa manager, again chose to keep his thoughts to himself was similarly disappointing. He appears to have retreated into a shell in the past week, coinciding with a dip in Villa's form, and must believe that he does not undo all his previous good work in the public relations department. "He didn't say anything to us either," Thompson said. "He was just as upset as we were."

For Chelsea, the future appears to be bright. "It was a big boost for the players, the supporters and the club," Gianluca Vialli, the player-manager, said. "Villa made it difficult, but we kept going and got our reward. You always have to keep going."

Chelsea visit Derby County tomorrow, a testing warm-up for the main event. Next stop: Old Trafford, the theatre of dreams, possibly championship dreams too.



Cole celebrates victory over Stockport County in The Times Youth Cup. The youngster is tipped for greatness but will be carefully nurtured by the West Ham United hierarchy

Cole may be the hottest property around, but he still scrubs boots

Oliver Holt looks into the future with Harry Redknapp, who has every reason to be delighted

Harry Redknapp needs no convincing about the potential of the boy, but he keeps being reminded of it anyway. Last season, one three-word question made a particular impression on the West Ham United manager. Alex Ferguson, his counterpart at Manchester United, took him aside after a game at Upton Park and got straight to the point. "How's Joe Cole?" he said.

Joe Cole, Joe Cole. The football cognoscenti, the men steeped in football, talk about him in almost reverential tones, as if they have found the Golden Child, the next great star of English football. Many believe that all that remains is the formality of his emergence and the beginning of his rise to greatness.

Cole was 17 last week. He is from Islington, North London, Arsenal's heartland, a football prodigy who has pledged himself to West Ham despite the concerted attempts of almost every other FA Cup-winning Premiership club, including Manchester United, to prise him away. Were it not for the fact that he has been injured for much of this season, it is probably that he would have been in-

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP THIRD ROUND

RESULTS

Derby County 1, Arsenal 5
 Everton 2, Birmingham City 0
 Southampton 1, Liverpool 2
 Stockport County 2, West Ham United 3
 Swindon Town 2, Leeds United 2

FIXTURES

Bury v Newcastle United	Stoke City v York City
Barnet v Hartlepool United	Middlesbrough v Wolverhampton Wanderers
Manchester United v Everton	Norwich City v Blackburn Rovers
Manchester City v Sheffield Wednesday	Sheffield United v Leyton Orient
Derby County v Charlton Athletic	Oxford United v Wimbledon
Huddersfield Town v Bradford City	Brighton and Hove Albion v Coventry City
Weymouth v Bishop's Cleeve or Ramford	Preston North End v Peterborough United
Southampton United v Portsmouth	Cambridge United v Ipswich Town
Northampton Town v Chelsea	West Bromwich Albion v Nottingham Forest
Tottenham Hotspur v Walsall	Aston Villa v Hull City
Creeve Alexandra v Brentford	Millwall v Reading
Crystal Palace v Tranmere Rovers	Sunderland v Bristol City
Port Vale v Notts County	Swindon Town v Leeds United (replay)
Gillingham v Leicester City	
Bolton Wanderers v Barnsley	

Times to be played by January 10, 1999

Redknapp's first team already. Before their Premiership game against Chelsea at Upton Park last month, Cole signed a five-year professional contract on the pitch in front of nearly 30,000 supporters. "You can tell your grandchildren you were there when Joe Cole signed for West Ham," the stadium announcer yelled over the loudspeaker system.

In short, the boy has become a legend before he has kicked a ball in the professional game. His name is an advertiser's dream and he already has a boot deal with Adidas. Everyone is jumping on the bandwagon, eager to plant their stake in the commercial goldmine that a young football superstar — especially one that is clean-cut and fresh-faced — has become.

As that process intensifies, Redknapp, Tony Carr, the West Ham youth team coach, and Cole's family have become alarmed that it is all much too much, much too soon, that too heavy a burden is being placed on Cole's young shoulders. Understandingly, they are keen to protect him and allow him to concentrate on his game.

He is still only a member of the West Ham youth team

Tuesday and the burden was evident even then. The programme had a picture of him starting out from the front cover. "Joe Cole: tipped for greatness in the future," it said.

He played most of the match on the left side of midfield, some of it just behind the front two. He — and, for that matter, a young West Ham centre back named Ezmo Iriekpen — looked the part. One of George Graham's favourite tenets is that 90 per cent of genius is simplicity and he would love Cole, too. Anyone who came expecting fancy tricks, a bit of ball-fudging, a feast of drag-back turns and the humiliation of opponents would have been crestfallen. Cole was wonderfully simple, mature beyond his years.

He played with an economy that made him almost innocuous, laying the ball off first time on each occasion, playing short passes to a team-mate in space, always making himself available. He was probably 95 per cent simplicity that night in front of five or six hundred shivering souls, but the other five per cent made the game worthwhile.

There was a pass in the first half struck with the outside of the right boot that dissected the Stockport defence with glorious precision, and one piece of control — stopping an awkward, bouncing ball dead and spinning so fast that he left his marker tackling air — that was breathtaking. Then there

was the run on the stroke of half-time that took him past four players and ended when he was brought down in the box. The penalty that West Ham scored as a result won the match, 3-2, and put them into the fourth round.

"I don't want to say too much about him," Redknapp said this week. "He has an awful long way to go — but I have thought he was special since the time I first saw him, when he was 11. Everybody else in the country was chasing his signature."

Redknapp added: "He does not get treated any differently to any of the other kids in the youth team. He has to scrub boots, carry the nets off, things like that. The odd day, he might join up with the first team for training."

"But he can do things that other players cannot do. He has the ability to bear people with a fantastic flash of skill. He sees a pass when it is on, he is not afraid of a tackle. It is all there: He has a really good chance, but it is absolutely crucial that we bring him along at the right pace."

In that respect, at least, the boy is in safe hands. Redknapp is about as down-to-earth and honourable as managers get. Joe Cole will get his chance when Redknapp knows he is ready.

Police to testify in Vieira hearing

By MATT DICKINSON

PATRICK VIEIRA'S appearance in front of a Football Association disciplinary panel on Monday is likely to be hotly disputed, with three policemen due to testify against the Arsenal midfielder player. Vieira, who is recovering from a hamstring strain, could face a lengthy ban if found guilty of misconduct.

The France international was charged by the FA after Arsenal's 1-0 defeat at Hillsborough, in which Paolo Di Canio, the Sheffield Wednesday forward, pushed Paul Aloock, the referee, and was subsequently suspended for 11 matches.

At the end of the match, Vieira, who had been taunted by the home crowd, allegedly made a gesture to supporters before becoming embroiled in a fracas with a police officer in the tunnel. Vieira is expected to plead his innocence, claiming that he was simply defending himself, but three police officers are understood to have submitted reports about his alleged actions. These will be put before the three-man commission, which will meet on Monday.

Arsenal have announced that their sponsorship deal with JVC will finish in the summer, after 18 years. "JVC have decided to channel their energies elsewhere with the World Cup in Japan in 2002," David Dein, the club's vice-chairman, said.

Tony Adams, the Arsenal captain, who aggravated a back injury in a European Cup Champions League game last month, has undergone surgery and faces a long lay-off. Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, hoped late last month that Adams, 32, could avoid surgery after he was told by a specialist that six weeks of rest would cure a chronic inflammation.

Peter Leaver, the chief executive of the FA Premier League, has survived a meeting of the clubs' chairmen in which it was expected that he would be asked to resign. The discussions ended in an uneasy truce but with Leaver's position unchanged. The special meeting had been called after clubs expressed their discontent last week at Leaver's appointment, without their prior knowledge or consultation.

Sam Chisholm and David Chance as media advisers to the Premier League.

Nigel Martyn, the England goalkeeper, has accepted a new contract to stay at Leeds United until 2002 while the new deal signed by Lucas Radebe, the South Africa captain, will keep him at Elland Road until 2003.

Tony Cottee, 33, has signed a one-year extension to his contract at Leicester City. Leicester have refused to allow Garry Parker to leave to become the new coach of Wolverhampton Wanderers.



Vieira: facing ban

Wasteful Arsenal cost

SPORTING merit has been so ignored in the deliberations over the revamped European Cup Champions League that should Arsenal repeat this season's feat of finishing second from bottom in the weakest of groups they will be happily contemplating a bye straight into the third round of the UEFA Cup, rather than a few idle Wednesday's.

It is a strange world, indeed, where failure is so rewarded, but such is UEFA's desperation to protect the interests — financial, of course — of the leading clubs and thwart a breakaway super league that its politicians are willing to abandon any sense of justice.

With no such safety net to protect them this year, Arsenal plunged headlong from Euro-plunged headlong from European competition despite their 3-1 victory against Panathinaikos in Athens on Wednesday. It was an uplifting triumph, bearing in mind the ineptitude in the Arsenal ranks, but it should not mask the fact that they finished third in a group that even Arsène Wenger, their manager, described as "very average". While Manchester United survived Group D for death, Arsenal

were ejected from E for (relatively) easy. The talent that Dynamo Kiev will soon be selling to Serie A was considerable, but it is being kind to Lens to call them mediocre and Arsenal's failure to secure more than a point against the French champions was ultimately decisive. A win and a draw instead of a draw and a defeat by Lens would have put Arsenal through as one of the two runners-up — at the expense, ironically, of Manchester United.

"How, then, to do better? Home advantage will certainly be a help, with Arsenal returning to Highbury next season after the experiment at Wembley. The club may have made several million pounds by moving to the national stadium, but Wenger believes that the change of venue inspired the opposition more than his own players. One win from three games would bear him out.

The destruction of Wembley in the summer will spare the Arsenal board any hand-wringing over whether to put financial expedience above the needs of the team and their manager is relieved. "Wembley is not possible for us next season and maybe that is a blessing," he said. "The negative is that everyone raised their game much more above the normal level against us."

It would be limp to suggest that it was the principle reason for Arsenal's demise, however, and Wenger was too honest to use it as an excuse, just as he did not dwell on the extraordinary injury problems that have undermined his planning. The Frenchman knows that the shortcomings of his players were the most telling factor of all.

"We have learned more than ever that you pay for every chance you miss," he said, a succinct epitaph to a campaign notable for the number of squandered opportunities, even against Panathinaikos, when Arsenal should have scored six. "We were a little short with just one striker," Wenger said.

If the disappointment among the Arsenal camp was far from acute, it was probably because they had approached this competition with minimal expectations. Wenger had insisted from the start that this would probably be a year for learning and that was certain-

ly the case on Wednesday, when Arsenal finished the game with five teenagers on the pitch, including the excellent Matthew Upson, David Grundin and Paolo Verrazza.

Given that it took Manchester United several years of failure to reach their current stature in Europe, Wenger's caution was understandable, but it is reasonable to expect a quicker learning curve from a team with players as experienced as Petit, Bergkamp and Overmars than from Old Trafford's youthful Englishmen. "Must do better next time," is on Arsenal's European report.

Wenger always claimed that he had more interest in retaining the FA Cup than the Premiership title and he can return to that task at Derby County on Saturday with renewed optimism. For all the talk of a crisis at Highbury, Arsenal are only four points behind Aston Villa and they can begin welcoming back some familiar names.

Parlour and Dixon will be back after suspension and Overmars is fit after a week's rest. Bergkamp is in full training and Vieira is close to a return from his hamstring strain.

There was another reminder that life was back to normal on Wednesday, too. Perry, the Terriers' manager and "Mr. Fixit", was out on the pitch at 7.30am on a cold morning, rolling it flat in advance of their FA Vase third-round tie against Mickleover Sports tomorrow, when victory would take them into the last 32. As one door to Wembley shuts, another opens tantalisingly.

Having savoured every moment of an eight-match FA Cup run that had its climax in the resounding defeat of Colchester United in the first round and met its end in the honourable defeat away to Southport United on Satur-

Bedlington return to the world of normality

THE coach journey north, when the players could relax with a beer and took turns to lead the singing, helped to ease the initial sense of disappointment. So it was not for a couple of days that the reality of Bedlington Terriers' exit from the FA Cup sank in for Keith Perry, when he had a hand up a U-bend as he installed some new toilets at Welfare Park.

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Having savoured every moment of an eight-match FA Cup run that had its climax in the resounding defeat of Colchester United in the first round and met its end in the honourable defeat away to Southport United on Satur-

day, Perry and his part-timers must now make the adjustment of scale, hype and expectation that greets the passing of every non-league Cup adventure. They will not be found wanting, he insists.

"I don't think it will be too difficult for us to come down to earth," Perry said. "We have been level-headed enough throughout our Cup run. We realised it was just a dream, but we enjoyed every moment of it.

"The Vase is more realistic. We proved during our run that we are a decent side and it has made us more knowledgeable, more resolute — although how we can be made favourites is beyond me."

But highly fancied they are. Indeed, Bedlington's biggest problem, Perry said, is that as their profile increased, so every team they played tried that much harder. "We are a bit of a prize scalp now and I expect Mickleover will have been given a bit of an impetus to beat

us," he said. That has not stopped Bedlington consolidating second place in the Arnot Insurance Northern League first division.

Bedlington won the title last season, too, but had to decline promotion to the Unibond League because of the work that would have been needed on their ground. In the next few weeks, Perry and his colleagues will sit down to decide what to do should they repeat that triumph. "We have got a few bob in the coffers now, but there is still a lot to be done here, as well as working out whether we could afford the added costs of travelling and whether the step up would fit in with the players' jobs," he said.

What will not be up for discussion is the fact that Bedlington's previously unheralded team has put the Northumberland town on the map. "Nobody has forgotten what we achieved and I don't think they ever will," Perry said. "People keep saying we have done them proud. I hope we can do it again on Saturday."



The bulk and heavy musculature of Maier, shown to good effect in training this week in Val d'Isère, make him formidable in many skiing disciplines

Maier proves size matters

The Hermannator is preparing to dominate the World Cup skiing season again. Graham Duffill looks at the Austrian showing the values of strength and training

Is Hermann Maier made by God alone? The question has been posed even before the ski season starts properly this weekend at Val d'Isère, France, with the first European downhill. At the opening giant slalom last month, a Swiss trainer remarked how big the Austrian skier had grown on a diet of pasta and bread, then immediately apologised lest any inference be drawn. In Austria, the press has been more direct: *Maschine Maier: Training oder Doping?* the magazine *Profil* asks. No skier has been implicated in taking performance-enhancing drugs and the sport is regarded as being clean, but the premature death of Florence Griffith-Joyner is a reminder that drugs are around and that there are potential advantages for skiers. They are frequently racing to recover from injury, modern courses favour muscle bulk and strength and the hours devoted to training are consistently rising. To meet Maier is to understand why he should, without any justification, become the focus of the questioning. Downhill racing suits hide as little as a pair of ballet dancer's tights and whenever you stand with

these six-foot men with strong shoulders and legs like tree trunks, you are reminded of the sheer strength required to hold a man together at 80mph on a steep slope. Maier stands out like a prize bull in a field of cows. He is not tall but is enormously bulky. Then there is the sudden emergence of the man dubbed "The Hermannator". Maier, whose father runs the ski school in Flachau, grew up racing at the Austrian academy at Schladming. In his early teens, he developed a chronic knee problem and doctors told him that he had to give up racing. At 22, he was the equivalent of a county-standard skier. In 1995, he was offered the chance to represent his province in a race on the junior circuit, the Europa Cup in Switzerland. The next year, he gave up his building job to try his luck on the Europa Cup circuit as a giant-slalom skier and would probably have not got beyond junior races but for "the day that changed my life". In January 1996, he was chosen as a local to forewarn the World Cup giant slalom in Flachau. Forerunners are supposed to set the course, not win the race. Maier's time would have put him twelfth. A

month later, he was sent an official Austrian team race suit that was three sizes too small and told to stay on the Europa Cup circuit. By the end of the season, he had won the overall Europa Cup and a place in the World Cup team. Maier raced 11 World Cup super-giant slaloms in the 1996-97 season, winning one race and nearly always coming second or third. Last season, he started winning big time. In November, at the giant slalom in Park City, Utah, in the United States, he won by nearly 3sec and went on to put impossible distances between himself and second place in a sport that is supposed to be decided in hundredths of a second.

The Austrians tried him in super-giant slaloms and downhills and discovered that Maier has only two modes, off and full on. He won downhills in Vail, Bormio and at Wengen, but the team would not let Maier, who is compared to Franz Klammer for his win-or-lose style, to race the Hahnenkamm in Kitzbühel for fear that he would kill himself. At the Winter Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan, he won



Maier, the skier of last year, has enjoyed a winning start

gold medals in the giant and super-giant slaloms and would probably have won the downhill had he learned caution. By the end of the season, the 26-year-old was confirmed as the skier of the season. Maier has only competed in 39 World Cup races. As he enters this season, winning the first giant slalom in Sölden by nearly 3sec, he is the object of scrutiny. He answers questions about drugs by referring to his renowned training regime, but it is Bernd Parsold, his doctor,

who is the smoking gun in Maier's locker-room. Parsold, from the former East Germany, trained the women's winning team there from 1974 until 1986, a time notorious for doping and for which Parsold is facing allegations in court. He now runs a clinic and, since January 1997, Maier has been a regular client. Parsold also denies using drugs, but says that he has been able to develop Maier because he has a high natural muscle-mass that responds to training.

Infrastructure's architects

The Romans in Britain BBC2, 7.30pm (N. Ireland, 6pm) As mentioned last week, this series was made for an Open University course and OU students will no doubt be using the material to compose learned essays. But this should not daunt the rest of us, for the programmes are pitched at a general audience as well as a specialised one. Tonight's instalment takes its cue from the immortal words of John Cleese in Monty Python's *Life of Brian*: "What, apart from sanitation, medicine, education, wine, public order, irrigation, roads, a fresh water system and public health, have the Romans ever done for us?" To seek the answers, the personable presenter Guy de la Bedoyère visits the baths at Bath and the remains of a villa in the Cotswolds. He also watches an expert cooking fish in the Roman style.



Chandler and Joey meet "Tricky Dicky", aka Richard Branson (Channel 4, 9pm)

Friends Channel 4, 9.00pm One thing that has floored the writers of *Friends* is creating even half-decent dialogue for its non-American characters. Poor Helen Baxendale has floundered from the start and in tonight's double episode, which brings the cast (most of them) to London for the wedding of Ross (David Schwimmer) to Rachel's sister, the script also deftly features Jennifer Saunders, Tom Conti, June Whitfield and Hugh Laurie. Richard Branson, playing a souvenir seller outside Westminster Abbey, should stick to his day jobs, and the only Brit to come out well is the Duchess of York. This is because she appears as herself and says little. As for the wedding, it nearly doesn't take place, then it does. But with Ross's old flame Rachel (Jennifer Aniston) making a last minute dash across the Atlantic, prepare for fireworks.

portrays the future leaders of independent India and Pakistan as just another pair of immature students (though awfully English with it). At the other end of the social scale the working class family from hell, loosely echoing Alf and the Garnetts, is another example of the incongruity between Asian faces and English speech. In very different mood is a touching lament for old age sung by two women on a park bench which transcends ethnicity.

Goodness Gracious Me BBC2, 9.30pm The Asian sketch show continues to derive much of its comedy from characters trying to be more English than English. Or in the case of the *Animal Hospital* spoof, which features an Asian version of *Roll Harris*, more Australian than Australian. The strategy also applies to a running gag about the Cambridge years of Nehru and Jinnah, which

Harry Hill Channel 4, 11.05pm The puzzle about Harry Hill's show is that it is transmitted so late, for it is hardly full of sex talk or foul language. On the contrary, Hill is one of the few comedians currently practising who manages without such things and since he is still funny there must be a moral somewhere. As usual the show is recorded too close to transmission for us to reveal the contents, except that the *Wurms* make a guest appearance. But anybody who has not tried Hill, and who refuses shy, inconsequential jokes copying him in all directions, this is the place to be. Hill's humour defies normal classification and loses almost everything when transferred to cold print. But a *This Is Your Life* for flies, or TV listings which assume that Hitler won the war (to take a couple of recent gags) gives something of the flavour. Peter Waymark

"For me will always Christmas" advertisement for Old Speckled Hen Ale. The ad features an illustration of a man in a hat and coat holding a glass of ale. Text includes: "A perfect combination of smoothness and strength, with a subtle blend of flavours. A most Gratifying Ale." and "Brewed by Morland of Abingdon, Est'd. 1711. www.oldspeckledhen.co.uk"

Irish plan rival regatta to Commodores' Cup

THE biennial Rolex Commodores' Cup — the amateur equivalent of the Admiral's Cup — is facing a direct challenge from the Royal Cork Yacht Club, which is planning to run a similar event in the run-up to Ford Cork Week 2000. The four stagings of the Commodores' Cup have been held in The Solent and hosted by the Royal Yacht Squadron, with the Royal Ocean Racing Club (ORC) running the competition under the IMS rating system. The event has featured three-boat teams from Great Britain and Europe racing in The Solent and in the English Channel. However, the Cup has been in the doldrums of late, with just nine teams competing last year, down from 15 in 1996, and the standard of competition was generally low, attracting little public interest as a result. The Royal Cork approached Rolex, the ORC and Strategic Advertising, which markets the competition, with a proposal to reinvigorate the event and move it to Ireland, but it met with a polite rejection of its ideas. As a result, the Irish are planning to go their own way and are designing a similar regatta — the so-called Fastnet Cup — but with some important innovations. The Cork event will be open to two-boat teams in overlapping bands under the new IR2000 "Measured" and "Club" system, with a maximum of four teams from each country. The big-boat fleet will be open to professionals,

WORD-WATCHING section containing answers to word puzzles and definitions. Includes: HAHAM (Jewish law), KISSEL (sweet dish), MONTUNO (rumba), NORATE (US dialect), SOLLTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE, and SAILING CORRESPONDENT: Edward Gorman.

Performance on 3 Radio 3, 7.30pm This is very much a concert of modern works, or at least modern by the calendar to which classical music operates. So the programme status as part of the Sounding the Sentinels is well justified. The American composer Elliott Carter is 90 years old today and to mark that occasion tonight's featured orchestra, the Ensemble InterContemporain, plays Carter's *Clarinet Concerto*, in which the soloist is Alain Damians. Carter is also this week's Composer of the Week on Radio 3. The other two soloists will both be new to Radio 3 listeners: Philippe Manoury's *Fragments Pour un Portrait* is a new work and there is the world premiere of Pierre Boulez's *Sur Incises*, which has a typically Boulezian instrumentation.

- RADIO 1 (BBC) 5.00am Zoe Ball 6.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Mark Goodier 2.00pm Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Top Trumps Essential Selection 9.00 Judge Jules 11.00 Westwood Radio 1 Rap Show 2.00am Fabio and Grooverider 4.00 Emma B
- RADIO 2 (BBC) 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 4.05 Das Dax 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 8.15 Wuhneing Heights (S7) 9.30 Listen to the Band 10.00 David Jacobs 10.30 Sheridan Morley 12.00 Lynn Parsons 2.00am Late Show
- RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC) 5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast with Julian Worricker and Victoria Derbyshire 8.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News with Alan Ross 1.00pm Fuzoco and Co 4.00 Drive with Peter Allen and John Slattery News Extra with Susan Bookbinder 7.30 Alan Green's Sporting Alan Green and studio guests debate the week's sporting action and look ahead to the weekend 10.00 Late Night Live with Brian Hayes 1.00am Up All Night
- VIRGIN 6.30am Chris Evans 9.00 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Hamish Scott 7.00 Wheel's of Steel 11.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00am Richard Allen
- TALK RADIO 6.00am Bill Ovanon and Sally Meen 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorance Kelly 2.00pm Anna Roebum 4.00 Peter Deely 5.00 The Sports Zone 8.00 Mike Allen 2.00am Mike Dillon
- RADIO 3 6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny, includes Beethoven (Piano Sonata in A flat, Op 110), Rameau (Overture: Nisid), Ensemble InterContemporain under conductor Pierre Boulez (Clarinet Concerto), Manoury (Fragments Pour un Portrait), Boulez (Sur Incises), 8.25 Postscript: The Great Pianists (44), 9.45 Beethoven (Piano Sonata in F, Op 54), Alfred Brendel 10.00 Hear and Now from the annual festival of new music in Hildesheim, Estonia, Chamber Chamber Choir under Toru Takemitsu, Arvo Part (Canon of Repentance) 11.30 Frank Jazz Concluding the series telling the story of the bass player Jaco Pastorius (44) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Mozart (1) 1.00am Through the Night includes 1.00 Berlioz (Les Femmes d'Alger (Olympic)), 2.45 Franck (Violin Sonata in A) 3.25 Felix Mendelssohn (Piano Concerto), 3.50 Germaine (Concerto Grosso No 12 in D minor, La Polka), 4.05 Rachmaninov (Etienne Ysa No 2), 4.45 Duruflé (Concerto No 2 in G minor), 5.15 Rachmaninov (Cathedral Variations), 5.30 Busch (Toccata in F), 5.40 Pieter Hellendael (Sonata No 1, Op 5)
- RADIO 4 4.00 Bookclub James Naughtie and guests talk to A.S. Byatt about her Booker prize-winning novel *The Children of Men* 4.30 The Message Alan Brodie and his guests discuss current media trends 5.00 FM with Clare English and Chris Lowe 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 True Life Comedy panel game hosted by David Aaronovitch, drawing inspiration from the world of the soap doozy *The Bill* 7.00 The Archers 7.15 Frost Row François Coppin presents the art review 7.45 *Sarah Waters* Final episode (1) 8.00 Any Questions? Panelists including Dr Kenneth Calman, John Sweeney of the Scottish National Party and Alan Duncan, MP, debate issues raised by the audience in *Moreport*, Northumberland 8.45 Letter from America with Alison Cooke 9.00 The Friday Play: *The Gay Man* by G.F. Adams. A couple's life some back to haunt them: Staring James Bolam and Rachel Davies (1) 10.00 The World Tonight with Robin Long 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Spideyweb Stephanie Cole reads part five of Penelope Lively's tale 11.00 Late Night on 4: Late Teatime Eleanor McLooney and guests discuss sporting issues 11.30 (FM) The Kean Dynasty Ian Sturges meets a family of champion squash players who live in a remote village in northern Pakistan 11.50 (LW) Today in Parliament Daily update from Westminster 12.00 News 12.30am (FM) The Late Book — Human Voices: The Captive of the Caucasus by Vladimir Malenin. A tale which tackles the Caucasus conflict and the Chechen war 12.30 (LW) Test Match Special: Duruflé's Etienne Ysa — A research in their own historical mysteries 3.30 Coffee — A Hellish Brew (44) (1) 3.45 Feedback Chris Dunaway airs listeners' letters

- CLASSIC FM 6.00am Nick Bailey's Easter Breakfast 8.00 Henry Kelly, The Hall of Fame Hour. Plus, favourite pieces voted for in the Classic FM Top 300 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones plays favourite music 2.00pm Concerto. Villa-Lobos (Guitar Concerto), Chopin (Piano Concerto), Liszt (Piano Concerto), plus special updates and news 6.30 Newsnight. Top stories and interviews with guests from the arts world. Presented by John Burningham 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. John Burningham introduces smooth classics 9.00 Smooth Concert. (Prelude to Act 1, Pachelbel), Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 1 in C), Schubert (Symphony No 6 in C), Pavarotti (Boraro) 11.00 Mann at Night 2.00am Concerto. (1) 3.00 Mark Griffiths
- RADIO 5 5.00 In Time Sean Rafferty is joined by the tenor Nigel Robson, who is celebrating his 50th birthday 7.30 Performance on 3 Alan Damians, clarinet, Ensemble InterContemporain under conductor Pierre Boulez, Carter (Clarinet Concerto), Manoury (Fragments Pour un Portrait), Boulez (Sur Incises), first performance. See Choice 8.25 Postscript: The Great Pianists (44) 9.45 Beethoven (Piano Sonata in F, Op 54), Alfred Brendel 10.00 Hear and Now from the annual festival of new music in Hildesheim, Estonia, Chamber Chamber Choir under Toru Takemitsu, Arvo Part (Canon of Repentance) 11.30 Frank Jazz Concluding the series telling the story of the bass player Jaco Pastorius (44) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Mozart (1) 1.00am Through the Night includes 1.00 Berlioz (Les Femmes d'Alger (Olympic)), 2.45 Franck (Violin Sonata in A) 3.25 Felix Mendelssohn (Piano Concerto), 3.50 Germaine (Concerto Grosso No 12 in D minor, La Polka), 4.05 Rachmaninov (Etienne Ysa No 2), 4.45 Duruflé (Concerto No 2 in G minor), 5.15 Rachmaninov (Cathedral Variations), 5.30 Busch (Toccata in F), 5.40 Pieter Hellendael (Sonata No 1, Op 5)
- RADIO 6 5.30am (FM) World News 5.30 (FM) Special Australia v England. Discussing commentary from the first day's play in the third Test from the Adelaide Oval 5.55 (FM) Shipping 6.40 (FM) Inshore Forecast 6.45 (FM) Prayer for the Day with Jane Williams 6.47 (FM) Farming Today with Anne Hill 6.50 (FM) Only one 7.30am Today introduced by Sue MacGregor and John Humphrys 6.55 (LW) Yesterday by Peter Dinklage 9.00 Desert Island Discs The military historian John Keegan looks back on his achievements (1) 9.45 (FM) Serials: Charles Dickens — Journalist (Final part: See Choice) 9.45 (LW) An Act of Worship from the World Council of Churches Assembly in Harare 10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Murray and guests 11.00 Strictly Confidential: Quentin Cooper tangles with members of the Association of British Investigators as they gather in York (3/4) (1) 11.30 The Sunset Couple by William Hamilton, starring James Fleet, Holly Gaynor and Derris Quilty (1) 12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast 12.00 (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours Liz Barclay and John Vane tackle more consumer concerns 1.00 (FM) The World as One presented by Nick Clarke 1.30 Screen Test Brian Sibley shares the challenging film quiz 2.00 The Archers (1) 2.15 Afternoon Play: Showing up by Georgia Fitcher. A woman welcomes home the son she gave up for adoption, little suspecting the devastating effect his return will have. With Edna Doré, Polly James and Ivan Thomas (1) 3.00 Minding History Roger Wiles helps listeners research their own historical mysteries 3.30 Coffee — A Hellish Brew (44) (1) 3.45 Feedback Chris Dunaway airs listeners' letters
- FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.8-98.8. RADIO 2. FM 98.0-98.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.9-92.6. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 899, 908. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648. LW 196 (12.45-5.35am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8. MW 1187, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. RADIO 5 EXTRA. Radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary South, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McLennan.

Animal advertisement featuring a large illustration of a cat's face and the word "Animal" in a stylized font.



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Maier looking stronger than ever for new season



FRIDAY DECEMBER 11 1998

Ferguson hopes for fresh outlook

BY OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

WINTER'S grey will have been replaced by spring's green by the time that Manchester United pick up the standard again and prepare to do battle with their fellow members of the European elite. The Champions' League will have become the European Cup by then, but Alex Ferguson, the United manager, warned yesterday that it may be a wholly different competition in other ways, too.

As the smoke cleared on what Uefa had called the "night of decision", so demonstrating an understanding of promotional flair that would have made Don King weep, Ferguson could hardly have been surprised when he looked around him to identify the rest of the last men standing alongside a United team that had qualified for the quarter-finals next March.

Many of the usual suspects were

there. Juventus, squeezing through by the skin of their teeth, just like last year, Internazionale, finishing ahead of the holders. Real Madrid, who also qualified, and Dynamo Kiev, the Ukrainian champions, who are playing with such force and vigour that many think they, not United, should be favourites.

If there was a bonus for Ferguson and his team, it lay in the fact that their qualification as one of the two best runners-up has already ruled them out of being paired with Real Madrid, the other second-placed team, when the draw for the last eight is made on Wednesday in Geneva. Nor, according to the rule-book, will they be allowed to meet Bayern Munich, their group winners and opponents in the 1-1 draw at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

That leaves Olympiakos, Juventus, Kaiserslautern, Internazionale

and Dynamo Kiev as potential rivals when the quarter-finals take place on March 3 and March 17. Another quirk of the draw is that United will have to play the first leg of the tie at Old Trafford, a runners-up penalty deemed to be a disadvantage.

Ferguson, though, paid little heed to niceties like that. His overriding concern, a familiar lament, was that the demands of the English season are such that United are likely to be in far worse shape than their rivals in three months' time.

His point was borne out at the same stage last season, when his depleted team bowed out tamely to AS Monaco.

He seemed to identify Kiev, in particular, as the team to avoid. Not only do they possess two of the most potent attackers in Europe in Andrii Shevchenko and Serhii Rebrov, but they will be fresh and raring to go after a winter break,

THE LAST EIGHT

Olympiakos
Juventus
Internazionale
Real Madrid
Bayern Munich
Manchester United
Dynamo Kiev
Kaiserslautern

something that Ferguson hankers after for the FA Carling Premiership. "A few of those teams will be able to have a bit of a breathing space in the winter," Ferguson said. "Some of them can go on nice trips to the Canary Islands while we have to struggle on through the winter. We don't even seem able to take a leaf out of Scotland's book and have a mini-break."

"If we can avoid FA Cup replays,

then we should at least be down to one match a week in January and February, which will give us a chance to do some proper training, but it is still a hard slog through those months. If it was just on pure ability, I would be confident about the quarter-finals, but come March we have just got to hope we have still got the players there."

Ferguson was coy about whether he would attempt to strengthen his squad before the quarter-finals. He did not rule it out, but he said that he was happy with his squad as it is. If he does not take any new steps in the transfer market, though, he knows that others will. Juventus, a team who seem to have dogged United at every recent turn, are likely to be among them.

The Italian champions almost seemed to defy mathematics by scraping through from group B with eight points, courtesy of the goals from Inzaghi and Amoroso

that helped them beat Rosenborg 2-0 in Turin on Wednesday night. Deprived of Alessandro Del Piero by injury for the rest of the season, they are enduring a torrid time in Serie A, but they scraped through in the same manner last season and still made the final. If they add to their squad, it is easy to imagine them breezing into their quarter-final rejuvenated and reinforced. They, more than any other side, seem to have perfected the habit of peaking at the right time.

Kiev could suffer from the acquisitiveness of Juventus and their ilk. It is possible that their team will break up over the summer. Shevchenko has been linked with a £22 million move to AC Milan. Rebrov with a more modest transfer to AS Roma.

Whatever the next three months bring, one thing is clear: the Champions' League was a gloriously protracted preliminary round. The

business end of the European Cup begins in March and United will have to shake off the ache and pains of winter if they are to show with the spring.

Uefa, the sport's European governing body, confirmed yesterday that the Champions' League will be increased from 24 to 32 clubs next season, playing in eight groups of four. The third-placed clubs in each group will subsequently qualify for the Uefa Cup, which will absorb the Cup Winners' Cup competition and expand to 121 teams.

England will have six European representatives — three in the Champions' League, one of which will play in a preliminary round, and three in the Uefa Cup, drawn from the fourth-placed side in the FA Carling Premiership this season and the winners of the FA Cup and Worthington Cup. Qualifying for the Champions' League is likely to start as early as July 14.

Spinner handed surprise call-up England turn to Such after shuffling pack

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN ADELAIDE

PETER SUCH had never quite given up on a resumption of his England career, despite the passing of 53 months and 50 Test matches since his last appearance. Even he admitted to surprise, however, when told of his inclusion in the third Ashes Test, that started here this morning, seven weeks into a tour on which he had played only one game.

"I've had four years to think about this moment, but it did come as a bit of a surprise," Such said. "On modern tours, there will always be players who have to hide their time and make sure they are ready when the opportunity comes. I don't think I'm as out of nick as people might perceive."

The choice of Such, principally ahead of Philip Tufnell,

bewildered many when this tour party was announced and his selection for the pivotal match of the series will cause still more perplexity.

His only previous match was here in Adelaide a month ago, when he bowled impressively yet took only one wicket.

John Woodcock... 52
West Indies held up... 52

However, England were acting on logic and instinct rather than expectation and no one should condemn them for that.

After a protracted debate that produced a balance of seven batsmen and four bowlers, Graham Gooch, the tour man-

ager, said that it was "the toughest selection meeting I have ever been involved in". He specified sympathy for Alex Tudor and Angus Fraser, both omitted from an attack in which Dominic Cork was a probable exclusion even before he reported sick.

Such entered a four-man attack, in which Dean Headley was preferred to either Alex Tudor or Angus Fraser, because he was considered the likelier of England's two touring off-spinners to capitalise on an Adelaide pitch starting conspicuously bare at one end.

This does not say much for Robert Croft, who has been promoted to the senior spinner, and nor was it intended to. Croft has lost the ability to spin out good players, his few wickets at this level in recent times relying generally on catches in the deep. The truth is that England lost patience with him.

Such, 34, an engaging but self-contained character, almost gave up cricket when his second county, Nottinghamshire, offered him negligible opportunities. His career was rescued by a move to Essex in 1990 and consistency within a successful side finally carried him into Test cricket.

Until today, he had played only eight Tests. They were condensed within 13 months, the first and last were staged at Old Trafford and by far his best figures — six for 67 — came against Australia in the first innings of his debut.

He is a cricketer who has suffered for being considered too decent and compliant, an easy man to leave out, and all who know him will rejoice at this belated recall. The son of a naval officer, his standing among fellow players is reflected by his position as vice-chairman of the Professional Cricketers' Association.

The demand for quality spin bowling was exacerbated by the extreme heat in Adelaide. Temperatures yesterday rose to 40C, making it the hottest December day in the city for 11 years, and forecasters suggest that it will be even hotter today.

England have not lost any of their past three Tests in Adelaide and they won here against improbable odds four years ago, so Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, was alert to any risk of his team being distracted by public reaction to the involvement of Mark Waugh and Shane Warne with an Indian bookmaker.

One worry for Australia was allayed yesterday when Ian Healy, their wicketkeeper, who had been in some doubt through a thigh injury, was declared fit.



Headley, recalled to the England side, bowls in the nets before the third Test in Adelaide

Waugh keeps mind on job

REASSURED by the counselling of his captain and the support of his team-mates, Mark Waugh was determined to take his usual place in the Australia side when the third Test began here this morning.

Waugh is fortunate to have Mark Taylor for a captain. On day three of "Bookiegate", it was Taylor who cut through the cant and hypocrisy to address the situation simply. "We can all be too high and mighty about this," he said. "To me, the story is very simple. Mark and Shane did something very silly. They made a mistake, took a cheap dollar, but nothing more than that. You have to try and put it into perspective. If it had involved throwing matches, it would be very different."

Warne said Taylor, "will be

picked again as soon as he is fit and ready to play at the highest level". Unlike many in the country, he saw no reason why the scandal should damage Warne's prospects of succeeding him as captain — more encouragement for the leg spinner on a day when his main sponsors, Nike, announced they would continue to support him.

One of Taylor's first acts when his players gathered was to call them together to discuss the developments. "I asked all of them if they had a problem playing with Mark or Shane," he said. "Nobody does." The responses were very good. "Taylor has also spoken privately to Waugh. "He's not in the best state of mind, but I had no need to ask him if he still wanted to play," he said.

Hendry hints at retirement after defeat by Drago

FROM PHIL YATES IN BINGEN

STEPHEN HENDRY yesterday made the astonishing admission that he may retire, in the wake of another surprise defeat. The Scotsman was beaten 5-2 by Tony Drago in the quarter-finals of the German Masters and said: "If it carries on like this, I'll seriously think about chucking it all in at the end of the season."

Hendry, beaten by Drago, of Malta, for the first time in 13 meetings, added: "My form is just getting worse and worse. When I've got no confidence, I hate playing this game. I feel terrible, there's no getting away from it."

In the immediate aftermath of defeat, sportsmen are often responsible for comments they regret. However, while Hendry has become increasingly downcast over a series of ineffective displays, he has never given such a clear indication of the despondency that he is feeling.

Hendry was whitewashed 9-0 in the first round of the United Kingdom championship last month, but responded by winning the Rothmans Malta Grand Prix last Sunday, the 67th tournament win of his career. His many and varied mistakes against Drago strongly suggest that was a false dawn.

Drago, erratic and excitable, habitually has problems applying the finishing touch as against opponents high in the game's pecking order. This weakness surfaced against Hendry, but, by that stage, the Scot was so thoroughly devoid of confidence that he could not capitalise.

Understandably, after being on the receiving end of so much punishment from Hendry over the years, Drago was overjoyed. "I've waited so long for this. To finally beat my duck against him is fantastic," he said.



Hendry, despondent

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

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No 1586

ACROSS

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- 8 Radio interference (6)
- 9 Car workshop (6)
- 10 Cries convulsively (4)
- 12 Sort of sea-bird: a warship (7)
- 14 Stimulating, pungent (7)
- 15 Average (4)
- 17 Group (of acquaintances) (6)
- 18 Hardens, become rigid (6)
- 20 H G Wells's unseen scientist (9,3)

DOWN

- 1 Data analyst (12)
- 2 Eye defect: actors collectively (4)
- 3 A counterfeit (7)
- 4 Discontinue (parliament meetings) (8)
- 6 Use straw (4)
- 7 Campaign war-chest (8,4)
- 11 Most reliable (shares to buy) (4,4)
- 13 Come into (money) (7)
- 16 Back of head: receive (no. of votes) (4)
- 19 identical (4)

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Hunger strike for animal pr

By DIAN...

BARRY HORNE, the animal rights firebrand, gave up his hunger strike yesterday after 60 days.

Horne, 46, was last night being moved from Follis Prison to a hospital in York for requesting medical attention. He had returned to prison from York District Hospital after refusing treatment.

To former dustman...

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